Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-210 *31 October 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication have been changed. All new indicators begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Central America To Seek Transition Accord to NAFTA

PA3110120894 Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Oct (AFP)—At the upcoming Summit of the Americas scheduled to be held in Miami (the United States) in December, Central America will seek a transition agreement in order to have access to the Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA, signed by the United States, Mexico, and Canada), Costa Rican President Jose Figueres announced on 30 October.

Central America "should explore the possibility of becoming a temporary member" so as to have access to NAFTA, Figueres said at a news conference after meeting with his Honduran counterpart, Carlos Roberto Reina, in Tegucigalpa.

He said this temporary agreement would enable each one of the Central American nations to attract a positive flow of investments to complement the domestic savings regional countries need for their development.

Figueres made quick visits to Guatemala and Honduras on 30 October during which he discussed regional and bilateral matters with Ramiro De Leon Carpio and Carlos Roberto Reina, his Guatemelan and Honduras counterparts.

Figueres said there will be good news for Central America at the Miami Summit, as IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Enrique Iglesias will announce the granting of $500 million to finance an electricity interconnection project in the isthmus.

Figueres admitted his visit to Tegucigalpa was mainly to apologize to Reina for not being able to attend the Peace and Development in Central America Summit, which took place early last week.

He said the importance of that conference was the incorporation of civilian society and the international community into the debate on Central American affairs.

"The rest of the world regards us (Central Americans) as a region, and that view is how we must see ourselves" by promoting the integration process, he said. Thus, "we will take our Alliance for Sustained Development to the Miami Summit," he said in reference to the commitment made by the Central American presidents to promote economic progress in harmony with nature.

Figueres returned to Costa Rica this afternoon after meeting with Reina at the Air Force Base at the Toncontin Airport (Tegucigalpa).

Mexico Reiterates Support for Central America

PA2810182594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1856 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government reiterated here today its support for Central American development and integration, as it considers that this region "is of fundamental importance" for Mexico.

"Mexico reiterates its political commitment to continue cooperating with Central America, contributing to local efforts with no limits other than our own capabilities and with full respect for sovereignty," Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello indicated.

"We have cooperated with the region in a serious, responsible and respectful manner. I am certain we will continue doing so, and we will broaden our efforts so that Central America can resolve the challenges presented by its development and the objectives of its integration," Tello said.

The Mexican official participated this Tuesday in the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America, attended by the Central American presidents seeking once again to get the attention of the international community.

Tello said that Mexican cooperation is translated into concrete projects, "based on sustained economic and social development and on the fostering of regional integration."

"There is no doubt that Central America is of fundamental importance to Mexico, our relations with the seven nations of the area are a priority in the nation's foreign policy," added the Mexican foreign minister.

The diplomat recalled that his nation has maintained its aid to Central America in the last four years in the regional integration process and the consolidation of peace.

In 1991, when Mexico and Central America signed a framework agreement of free trade, the Mexican Government "upheld in a clear manner that peace and democracy can only be strengthened if economic growth is fostered with social equality."

Tello indicated that since the Central American internal conflicts were overcome, now one "must progress decidedly to eliminate the obstacles to development and wellbeing: that is, poverty and damage of the environment."

"Mexico has insisted that cooperation should be offered without any conditions, with full respect for the interests and priorities of each one of the nations," the foreign minister highlighted.

The official expressed his trust that the international community will seek new forms of cooperation to strengthen the efforts of the region in its struggle against poverty and social restrictions.

The conference on peace and development concludes here on Tuesday with a final declaration and a subsequent news conference.

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Canada Plans To Cut Aid to Central America

FA2910000294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2132 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Cristine Steward, Canadian secretary of state for Latin America and Africa, today announced at the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America that, in the near future, her country will suspend economic aid to the nations of this region.

The reduction in aid will be gradual and does not mean Canada will forget the countries of Central America, and it will give priority to the needs of each country, she affirmed.

While attending the conference in Tegucigalpa, she said Canada is currently reviewing its aid policy, adding that her government will respond in "a fair manner" by helping the countries that need its assistance the most.

"Canada is a generous country that has understood it cannot live as an island that ignores the needs of its brothers. This is why continents such as Africa are always present in the agenda we are now handling," the diplomat added.

The official explained that Canada "is not forgetting Central America to help Africa," and as proof of this she pointed to the signing of the grant for 3 million lempiras (a little more than $400,000) that her government today donated to the National Human Rights Ombudsman.

The bulk of the aid Central American nations receive from Canada is earmarked for social welfare programs. Canada is represented at the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America by a delegation of seven officials. The Canadian mission is hoping that the meeting in Honduras with representatives of civilian society and the international community will serve as a development opportunity for the poor.

Armies of Americas Hold Symposium on Education

PY2810204794 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Oct 94 p C4

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Sergio Moreno, Army military institutes commander, yesterday opened the First Symposium of directors of War Academies of member countries of the Conference of Armies of the Americas (CEA).

The event is attended by about 20 foreign officers in charge of Army military institutes in their respective countries.

The representatives first went to the Diego Portales building to greet Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma.

This conference, the first of its kind, seeks to promote a joint analysis of the modernization of superior military education.

The event is being held in Chile in response to an invitation extended by General Augusto Pinochet when he attended the 20th Conference of the Armies of the Americas, held in Brazil in November.

During the opening ceremony at the War Academy, presided over by the National Defense Chief of Staff Richard Quaas, Moreno stressed the importance of this meeting, during which they will assess the current challenges of superior military education.

Moreno noted the need to adapt to an ever-changing world "without overlooking the basic principles of the military career."

He added that "knowledge develops as such speed" today that it compels us to a constant assessment of educational programs, placing special emphasis on the idea of "specializing." He said this will allow military institutions to have access to the benefits of modernization.

Moreno said that the institutional modernization process which started in 1992 encompasses education as one of its main priorities.

He added that the main means of achieving the objectives of the modernization process undertaken by the Chilean Armed Forces will be research, expansion, postgraduate programs, the increasing incorporation of science and technology in education and training programs, and "making more dynamic the fundamental values of our role in Chilean society."

Regarding the possible consequence of this meeting, Moreno stressed "the positive opportunity to promote the exchange of experiences and the rapprochement of the armed institutions of the Americas."

In the afternoon the directors of the war academies of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Mexico met with their Chilean counterparts to exchange views. They will continue with this task until tomorrow, when they will discuss the conclusions of their meetings.

The Symposium is scheduled to close on 21 October with a ceremony headed by Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the Chilean Army commander.

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Cuba

Alarcon: Talks 'Springboard' for Blockade Discussion

FL2810190994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to the immigration talks with the United States, has affirmed that the talks reached their basic goals. Alarcon gave a news conference which concluded moments ago at the International Press Center.

During the news conference, Alarcon pointed out that something positive about the New York accords is that both sides are equally committed to legal, safe, and organized migration between both nations.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I trust....[pauses] I hope that also during that process....[pauses] I do not mean in these talks; these talks were held for a specific purpose. A purpose, which is actually closely linked to the whole conflict between both countries. We have unavoidably had to discuss everything from Esteban Ventura [not further identified] to the blockade because all these things are related. I imagine that along this process we will also reach, in different ways, solutions to other conflicts between both nations, and also to essential differences. However, we should not underestimate the importance of the talks. The goal is to use them as a springboard to compel the negotiators themselves to begin discussing the blockade, and the hostility between both countries, etc.

This issue—I repeat—is unavoidably linked to the U.S. hostility toward Cuba, which is the only reason for the previous immigration policy, and the blockade, which stimulates the desire of some people to emigrate, as well as being the main obstacle to doing so legally. [end recording]

Alarcon stressed that the immigration accords between Cuba and the United States came about at a time and among factors which affect their implementation and require further clarification, consultation, and discussion between both nations. Alarcon added that this is what took place during second round of talks in Havana.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I believe this aspect of the issue was examined in a broad manner and, I believe, satisfactorily. [end recording]

Sees Miami Groups Undermining Agreement

PA2810213394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1856 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 28 Oct (PL)—Groups linked to anti-Cuban organizations are trying to undermine the Cuban-U.S. migration agreement from Florida, National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon charged today.

Alarcon, who is presiding over the Cuban delegation to the negotiations on that issue with the United States, pointed out in this capital that politicians linked to the so-called Cuban-American Foundation and congressmen of Cuban origin are participating in this strategy.

They are, in fact, the beneficiaries of the traditional hostile U.S. policy toward Cuba who support the economic and commercial blockade and restrictions on commercial flights and remittances to families on the island, measures that have been implemented by Washington since August, he added.

During a news conference with local and foreign reporters, Alarcon reaffirmed that the round of talks with the U.S. delegation which concluded on 25 October confirmed the reciprocal willingness to continue complying with the agreement signed in New York on 9 September.

He said that there was full understanding at the meeting that Washington will facilitate the flow of correspondence between persons detained at Guantanamo Naval Base and their relatives. Alarcon added that it is probable that this exchange will start soon.

As for children detained on that military installation who were taken there by one parent without the consent of the other, he confirmed that Washington has not yet replied to a Cuban request to settle this issue in keeping with current international regulations.

Alarcon said the blockade and punitive measures established against Cuba are the main obstacles to the consolidation of legal, orderly emigration from that Caribbean nation to U.S. territory.

They not only create problems for the transportation and financing of trips by interested persons on an individual basis but also increase expenses and make normal procedures more expensive.

As for the U.S. desire to increase the number of Cuban citizens deported to their country of origin—the so-called excludables—Alarcon pointed out that Cuba will not refuse to settle this issue so long as the basis is not the obligation to welcome those that the United States unilaterally decides to send back.

Alarcon reaffirmed that his country continues to oppose the use of Guantanamo Naval Base for the detention of Haitian and Cuban emigrees.

When asked about the Haitian situation, Alarcon said the current process seems normal.

At any rate, now is the time to show that the international community is truly committed, especially those who invaded the country, to helping Haiti overcome its serious economic and social crisis, a cooperation that was lacking in the past, he added.

Finally, he said nothing will have been achieved if a profound and real effort to help Haiti is not undertaken at this time.

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Explains U.S. Lottery System for Visas

PA2910021094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Commentary by Mario Munoz]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the immigration agreement signed by Havana and Washington on 9 September, the so-called lottery is one opportunity for Cubans to emigrate freely to the United States. This program applies to all Cubans, including those without relatives in the United States, who can be accepted into that country provided they meet medical requirements, have a clean record, and do not constitute a public burden.

Nevertheless, despite the information supplied by the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, it is not clear to many people which agency will pay their fare to the United States, considering that most Cubans do not have dollars. In addition, the White House has banned cash remittances to Cuba.

Interested in learning more about the thorny subject, I spoke with Ricardo Alarcon, who signed the immigration agreement in New York as Cuba's representative.

[Begin Alarcon recording] The fares are supposedly paid by the people who can afford to pay and who have been selected through a system that they call a lottery. According to this system, people around the world can get a U.S. visa even if they do not have close relatives in the United States. The U.S. Government established this broad program years ago to include other people who might be interested in coming to the United States. Of course, if they have a close relative in the United States, he is supposed to assist the immigrant with this type of problems. If there is no close relative living in the United States, then [words indistinct]. The U.S. Government does not defray this expense. The person is treated like a normal immigrant. This applies to those who have been selected and then approved for immigration. Even after they have been selected in a drawing, they must be interviewed and processed by the U.S. consulate. After all this, the person must make the necessary arrangements for transportation, just like any other person. The airline will demand money for the plane ticket. This is a process that any candidate for travel must undergo. [end recording]

Comments on Guantanamo, Panama Refugees

FL2910131094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The news conference given by Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to the immigration talks, was packed with reporters. For approximately 90 minutes Alarcon answered their questions on the immigration accords reached in September.

[Begin Alarcon recording] Regarding the people who were intercepted and taken to camps, those who tried to illegally emigrate to the United States: It is clear that they will not be paroled into the United States. The exception is if they return to their homes in Cuba from the camps in Panama, the United States, of the U.S. occupied territory at the Guantanamo Base. [end recording]

Alarcon described as a significant stumbling block the evident contradiction between the current spirit of understanding and the sanctions announced by Washington in August. Another hurdle—he added—are efforts by groups in Florida to undermine the accords. Alarcon explained some technical aspects of the accord.

[Begin Alarcon recording] There are people who are selected by a system which is colloquially called a lottery. This system gives people—worldwide—an opportunity to get a U.S. visa even if they do not have close relatives in the United States.[end recording]

Alarcon said that a significant feature of the Havana talks was the continuity of the talks about the practical fulfillment of every aspect of the accord. Alarcon added that the date for the next round of bilateral talks will be announced in the coming weeks.

Guantanamo Rafters Send Letter to U.S. Authorities

FL2910144894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported that some 20 Cubans at the concentration camp on Guantanemo Naval Base have sent a letter to American legal authorities requesting to be allowed to return to Cuba. These Cuban rafters were recently prevented from flying back to their country by order of a federal judge in Miami who ordered the suspension of repatriation.

Panama Refugees Demand Visas for Women, Children

FL2810180794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Twelve Cuban refugees held in U.S. camps in Panama escaped recently. Panamanian radio stations cited by PRENSA LATINA reported that American MP's and Panamanian policemen launched a search for the 12 refugees.

At one of the camps the refugees issued a 15 November deadline to be given entry visas into the United States for the women and children. Refugee leaders warned that if this request is not met, they will destroy the camp, jump the fences, and escape en masse.

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Capture of Escapees Reported

FL2910021494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing U.S. Southern Command authorities, AFP reports that U.S. authorities captured 18 of the 21 rafters who escaped from one of four refugee camps in the Panama Canal Zone on 27 October. Major Dennis (Fayne) said that two of the rafters had voluntarily returned to the camp and that the rest were apprehended in the partially wooded surrounding area. U.S. soldiers are searching for the remaining three rafters, still at large in the jungle surrounding the canal. It was also reported that eight Cubans in Camp Two have begun a hunger strike, demanding that the U.S. Government allow them to enter the United States as political refugees.

Haitian Refugees at Guantanamo Do Not Want Repatriation

FL2810141894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 6,000 Haitians refugees still at the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base do not want to return to Haiti. This information was given by a U.S. Defense Department spokesmen.

Robaina Comments on Blockade, UN Vote

FL2810174494 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "NTV" newscast; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina stated on 27 October that Cuba's struggle against the blockade goes much further than the vote cast at the United Nations on a resolution condemning that measure imposed by Washington.

During a news conference, which became a veritable debate on current international issues, Robaina talked about the UN resolution which for a third year in a row, condemned the U.S. Blockade.

[Robaina] "Neither Cuba nor the Foreign Ministry seek to portray the result of the UN vote as an important victory for Cuba or the international community. We believe it is simply just recognition of what we requested a few days ago at the United Nations, where we earnestly stated that the Cuban people's efforts deserve the overwhelming recognition of the UN General Assembly.

"There are those who argue that Cuba always presents this vote at the United Nations as a vote in support of our political system. We have not presented any such resolution. Anyone who reads the resolution—published today in GRANMA—can see that it simply speaks about what we believe is today the continent's—and the world's—most massive, flagrant, and greatest violation of the human rights of a people only for the sin of having selected their own path to live, survive, and express themselves."

To a question concerning the vote's effect on U.S. policy toward Havana, given that it coincides with the immigration talks, Robaina answered:

[Robaina] "I believe the U.S. policy toward Cuba is not conditioned by what the United States says alone, but by specific domestic policy factors. We have said this many times before. We have not seen any significant change toward Cuba. To those who are worried about any signals of change, the answer is: There is none. The only difference is a less hostile language in comparison with previous periods. However, the blockade has been restrengthened. Therefore, there is nothing to be overly enthusiastic about, except our duty to tell the world what we believe is just and thus defend it, and to welcome the world's response."

Foreign reporters asked if Cuba feared that the blockade might be lifted overnight.

[Robaina] "If we were so afraid of it, we would not be asking that it be lifted so earnestly. I believe that any fears Cuba might have are not as significant as those regarding food, medicines, and the right this nation has, like any other nation, to trade freely with the rest of the world, if not with the United States. I believe the blockade is contemptible because in addition to the U.S. decision to not trade with Cuba, it endeavors to prevent the rest of the world from trading with us."

Following the end of the Cold War and the beginning of an era of dialogue and agreement, the overwhelming approval of the UN resolution condemning the U.S. blockade against Cuba, will make it difficult for Washington to continue defending a policy which seeks to suffocate Cuba.

UN 'Diplomatic Victory' Extolled Internationally

FL2810155894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Barely 24 hours after the overwhelming approval at the United Nations of a resolution condemning for a third time the U.S. blockade against Cuba, the vote continues to prompt reactions far and wide in the international media and among political personalities.

AFP described the vote as a victory of Cuban diplomacy over the United States. Meanwhile, several U.N. permanent representatives for Latin America have stated that

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the vote shows, time after time, the increase in the number of countries advocating the lifting of the U.S. blockade.

Today, the Russian Government asked Washington to put an end to the blockade. Russian authorities described the blockade as a remnant of the Cold War and the period of confrontation in the Caribbean.

Furthermore, several Latin American organizations also made pronouncements against the blockade and highlighted the Cuban diplomatic victory at the United Nations.

Fidel Castro Thanks Paraguay's Wasmosy for UN Vote

PA3010195794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Oct 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has thanked his Paraguayan counterpart, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, for the vote at the recently concluded UN General Assembly against the economic, financial, and commercial blockade imposed by the United States more than three decades ago. Jose Fernandez Vilela, the Cuban Government representative [as heard] to Paraguay, delivered the message to Wasmosy in his office on 28 October. Paraguay's vote for the resolution presented by Cuba condemning the U.S. measure represents a change in Paraguayan policies because Paraguay was the only country in the region that voted for the blockade at the previous UN General Assembly.

Commentary Reviews Issues in U.S. Relations

FL3110021594 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Commentary by Ivan Beserra—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban-U.S. relations took a new turn this week when an official U.S. delegation arrived in Havana to discuss the migration accords that were signed in New York. Ricardo Alarcon, the chief Cuban negotiator, said that although differences and misunderstandings often arise during the negotiating process, they can always be resolved when both parties are dedicated to reaching an agreement—like Cuba and the United States are with regard to the New York agreement. This suggests that Havana and Washington hold very similar views on certain issues, despite a wide variety of differences.

Cuban flexibility on the migration problem has been exemplary and proved essential to the course of the talks. Havana has not shrunk from discussing this or any other issue with Washington, as long as discussions are based on unconditional equality. Cuba will continue to reiterate that the blockade is at the heart of the disagreement: The United States tries to separate the migration issue from this unquestionable reality, even though all roads lead to it. Ricardo Alarcon has reiterated that the steps taken on 20 August to reinforce the blockade should be lifted so that the New York agreements can be discussed. Any other approach is impossible, since a trip is not made by simply granting a visa.

Havana and Washington agree on migrants held in Guantanamo, Panama, and the United States: They cannot be admitted [ingresar] into the United States unless they return to their nation of origin and apply through the proper legal channels. Cuba has emphasized that any eventual humanitarian cases should be discussed bilaterally, without violating last September's agreement in any way.

The negotiators also decided to continue discussions on the excludables [los excluibles]. Cuba has pointed out that superficiality cannot be tolerated, because killers like Esteban Ventura (Novo) and Orlando Bosh are more excludable than others and yet are free in Miami.

Alarcon said that both nations will presumably meet again next week.

Country Seen Ready for New Phase in U.S. Relations

PA3010193694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2045 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 29 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Abelardo Curbelo stated that the Cuban Government is prepared to initiate a new phase of rapprochement and cooperation with the United States but has not received any reaction to this from the authorities in Washington.

The diplomat said his country is prepared to negotiate with the U.S. Government on the basis of normal relations and free competition.

In an interview with NOTIMEX, Curbelo affirmed that for the time being there has been no contact with the United States to discuss "formally and in detail" the economic blockade imposed more than 30 years ago.

The blockade issue should be reviewed "whether we like it or not," because the situation in Cuba is not only grave but could turn dangerous because the country's sovereignty is at stake and because we, Curbelo said, have the right and the ability to develop.

He stated: "Right now we are enduring a policy of pressure by the U.S. and aggression that is negatively affecting the free exercise of our sovereignty and national independence, a policy that is being implemented at a time when we have been left alone by the disintegration of the Soviet Union."

When asked if Cuba trusts powerful countries to help stop the blockade, the ambassador said that Cuba's

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highest hopes are placed in Latin America, especially in Mexico, which occupies first place in terms of bilateral trade.

With regard to the immigration problem between Cuba and the United States, which is the only issue the two countries have discussed recently, Curbelo said the matter will not be resolved unless the economic blockade on the island is not lifted.

Following the exodus of Cubans to Florida two months ago, Washington and Havana initiated talks to regulate the immigration problem after the United States changed its immigration policy for people leaving the island.

Ever since the triumph of the Revolution in Cuba, the United States has been receiving without many complicated immigration procedures all Cubans who arrived on U.S. territory. The recent departures of islanders to the United States, however, has modified this policy.

Representatives from the two countries met in New York in September and agreed to normalize the immigration of the so-called "rafters" through a commitment by which Washington will grant 20,000 visas to Cubans who want to emigrate, and Cuba will stop islanders' illegal departures.

According to Curbelo, migratory currents to the United States are the result of various factors such as the economic crisis and the hostile U.S. policy made obvious by propaganda that promotes emigration from Cuba.

The Cuban Right in the United States, which has weight in U.S. politics, is trying to maintain the blockade and to impede the agreements and the issuance of visas, the Cuban ambassador said.

Nobody in Cuba opposes "negotiations or an arrangement with the United States, but the country's many complications tend to defeat its own interests." There are groups In the United States that "threaten the September agreements. Although these agreements benefit both countries, some people are interested in hampering the dialogue and negotiations."

Curbelo described the fact that 101 countries voted for a UN resolution against the economic embargo as a Cuban diplomatic victory. "While the United States and Israel voted for the embargo, 48 other countries abstained. That is unusual," he said. It shows that the world wants the embargo to end and relations between the two countries to be resumed.

Asked whether an end to the embargo requires Castro to step down, Curbelo said that Castro's presence or absence on the island should be decided by the Cuban people alone. "Fidel is an extremely influential and capable leader such as few countries have. We cannot relinquish a man who has effected substantial changes in Cuba." Cuba has made changes, he said, adding: "We are already in a process of change which will be expanded as soon as the pressure on Cuba ceases, the embargo stops, and we can move freely in the world." Curbelo concluded: "Ours is a war economy due to the Soviet Union's demise and the intensification of the economic embargo. As it is lifted, however, we will feel more confident about making all the modifications required by the Cuban economy, administration, and society."

Talks With U.S., Phone Links Reviewed

FL2910170294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with correspondent Marcos Castellon in Miami by Maria Elena Alonso and Roberto Cavada in Havana; from the "Doing Radio" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Alonso] Marcos, as you know, this week the second round of the Cuba-U.S. talks on migration concluded in Havana. This time, as you know, the talks were held to review the accord reached on 9 September in New York. Also this week, the UN General Assembly in New York approved—with 101 votes in favor—a resolution sponsored by Cuba against the U.S. blockade. I think these are the two most significant issues of the moment. Do you agree?

[Castellon] Yes. It seems that way to me, mainly because of the fact that the two issues have both come up at the same time, and that their significance was disputed—because they are closely related. The issues discussed in the second round of talks in Havana are to some extent based on problems caused by the U.S. embargo of Cuba. I do believe that it is a repercussion that must be emphasized. However, in regard to the last round of talks, a certain tendency to at least initiate normalization of the talks with a spirit of professionalism, sincerity, and mutual respect was very pronounced. All of this could lead to other activities. In this case you could say that there was more fanfare than substance—there was no final statement, no specific details on the content of the negotiations given by either the American or the Cuban participants. This, of course, leaves the field open for some to speculate and draw the conclusion that there is, at best, some degree of stagnation. It is hoped this is a temporary situation, the issues are very delicate, and much more work is needed.

[Alonso] Okay, at any rate, Marcos, I think it would be constructive to hear about reaction there, and above all, to hear your opinion, your assessment. I would like you to evaluate the entire situation and how it is turning out.

[Castellon] In my personal opinion the approval of the resolution against the embargo by the United Nations denotes once again that it is raining on those who are wet. Each consecutive vote on the issue has demonstrated world opinion is against the American bilateral policy toward Cuba that has been in place for more than 30 years and that obviously is out of place today. It

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seems to me that things are starting to turn in Cuba's favor now— at the local level, people here are even questioning the efficiency of the U.S. State Department because the UN diplomats could convince only Israel to support the negative U.S. position. They were the only two nations that voted against the resolution condemning the embargo.

It seems to me that this is yet more evidence that it is now time to view Cuba differently and to lift this absurd restriction.

[Alonso] Very good, you also had other issues to discuss; new news regarding communications, and you were telling me about a dinner involving intellectuals and artists—give us more details.

[Castellon] Yes. First, the imminent opening of direct telephone service between the United States and Cuba, starting on 30 October, is apparently confirmed. As is known, several American companies—six I think—have been petitioning U.S. Government authorities for permission to establish direct telephone service and, of course, for the logical economic participation in the form of revenues for Cuba. Negotiations were held previously between Cuba and AT&T and now everything is finally ready. So, beginning on Sunday, 30 October, all the problems, the long delays, and the millions of uncompleted calls, will be avoided when calls are dialed directly. It is very significant, very important, because it is a way to maintain family ties during this extremely critical time when the ties are disrupted by restrictions President Clinton, pressured by the Cuban right in Miami, instituted in August in response to the rafter problem. These restrictions have practically reduced the family visit flights between Cuba and the United States to zero. At the very least this will call attention to the humanitarian need to maintain communication with loved ones and ties with the fatherland.

[Cavada] Marcos, it has been said that almost 10,000 calls a day could be completed. Has a figure been mentioned regarding what Cuba can expect to earn in revenues by reinstituting these communications?

[Castellon] Yes, projected revenue for Cuba is expected to be between $13 million and $18 million annually, once the telephone link is operating. One must keep in mind that the system has the capacity to complete 10,000 calls a day and will begin operating this Sunday, 30 October. In economic terms, this represents earnings for the American company and, of course, for the Cuban telephone company. Certain technical problems are bound to surface in Cuba, since the Cuban system is a little bit antiquated; there are some deficiencies that have caused communication problems on the Doing Radio Program. One would suppose that with the normalization of telephone communications there will be opportunities to improve the system.

[Cavada] Marcos, lastly, Maria Elena had asked you about something else, can you give us the details very quickly?

[Castellon] It is just a small, private meeting to be held here in Miami involving a group of people planning to participate in the solidarity with Cuba tour and the Pastors for Peace caravan that will begin in Canada shortly. They plan to again disregard the prohibition on flights to Cuba and the transferring of humanitarian donations. Each day, little by little, support for the lifting of the blockade and family reunification is growing here in Miami.

[Alonso] Thank you very much, Marcos.

Article Reviews Blockade's Effect on Media

PA3010183094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1034 GMT 29 Oct 94

["Exclusive" article by Cuban journalist Nicanor Leon Cotayo: "Effect of the U.S. Blockade on Journalism in Cuba"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana—Cuban journalists were responsible for newspaper circulation figures exceeding 1.5 million per day prior to 1989, the year when the socialist states in East Europe collapsed and serious problems were being observed in the USSR. By 1993, however, that figure had dropped to an average of 430,000.

In that period of nearly five years, Cuban newspapers went from 456 pages per week to 82 pages, less than one-fifth of its 1989 format.

Likewise, prior to 1989 there were 584 non-daily publications in circulation which produced more than 82.7 million copies per year. These days the most well-known survivor is BOHEMIA magazine, with only one-third of its 1989 edition circulation and a drastic reduction in the number of pages.

Television stations have reduced programming from 213 to 135 hours weekly, and radio stations have reduced daily programming by almost 100 hours. If you include the aforementioned statistics on the press, it will give you an idea of how the Cuban population has been adversely affected in this field.

Another effect of this process has been the need for more than 300 journalists to find other positions as close as possible to their professional fields. That figure represents 10 percent of the members of UPEC (Union of Cuban Journalists), some 200 of them from national organizations.

It is also appropriate to note that since July 1964, when the Ninth OAS Consultation Conference was held in Washington and decided to suspend all relations with Cuba due to well-known pressure from the U.S. Government, Cuban reporters have been suffering from the effects of a continental blockade, which Mexico has never supported.

That is why for many years it was difficult for us to travel to most countries in the area to practice our profession,

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a situation that continues today with different restrictions when we attempt to do it in the United States.

In the past, and it is necessary to point this out, it was almost impossible for Latin American and Caribbean reporters to travel to the island because to have a Cuban seal stamped in their passport caused them problems in their countries, especially when traveling to the United States.

That is why the blockade promoted by the White House facilitated even more disinformation and distortion campaigns, which the large multinational newspaper firms and their local agents staged against the Cuban revolution.

We could never respond in kind because we could never go there, and we were never given the right to respond to the slander in the same media that conceived it and printed or broadcast it.

In addition, we were excluded from most seminars, courses, conferences, and forums on journalism held in the United States and Latin America for many years.

In view of the above, it was not possible for us to have other experiences in the field and up-to-date textbooks written by U.S. and Latin American authors. All we had were the journalism schools founded at the University of Havana in 1965 and the one founded at the University of Oriente.

The Inter-American Press Association [IAPA], which groups businessmen in the field of journalism in the area, has maintained a hostile attitude toward Cuba in perfect tune with Washington, but it has never invited a journalist from the island to express his opinion about the topics being discussed.

The IAPA, when judging the situation of the media in Cuba, has generally based its reports on the viewpoints of people who do not live in the country. In its 34 years of existence, it has never condemned the U.S. blockade and its consequences for Cuban reporters and media.

When mentioning this point, it is impossible to forget that one effect of the Washington-imposed blockade has led several dailies to become weeklies with fewer pages than their original editions.

Editorial offices and printers experience difficulties with practically everything, either because supplies were previously obtained on the now nonexistent socialist markets or because, in keeping with one of the main goals the blockade set out to accomplish 34 years ago, there is no money to obtain these supplies.

This is why these publishing houses had to find other positions for most of their journalists and other workers. The opportunity for journalists to publish any lengthy analysis on a variety of topics was drastically reduced, international pages practically disappeared, and photographs and articles by contributors were dropped.

In keeping with this theme, and always in accordance with its characteristics, one can mention the particular situation of Cuban television correspondents in the provinces whose problems have increased over the last two years.

The main difficulty is the gradual wear and tear on the equipment that is essential to their work, such as cameras and recorders, in addition to general transportation and fuel problems and a lack of cassettes, light bulbs, microphones, batteries, and so forth.

One of the results of such limitations is reduced coverage of Cuban provincial news in the national newscast. Because the Havana headquarters suffers from a host of similar limitations, it is difficult to give the provincial correspondents the assistance they demand.

As for radio stations, I have already mentioned some of the difficulties, which with certain differences are reflected on a national, provincial, and municipal level and can be summarized as a lack of resources to do the job professionally.

Journalists encounter a considerable number of problems daily with such essential working components as high-quality recorders and microphones, as well as shortages or a complete lack of supplies ranging from cassettes to ballpoint pens. Similar to the press and television situation, those who work in radio also suffer from a chronic lack of educational material to bring them up-to-date on information published the world over every year.

Another very noticeable aspect of the effect of the blockade on our profession has to do with the official effort to prevent Cuban journalists from traveling to the United States to do their job. I mention certain examples below:

In 1991, CNN invited our colleague Elizabeth Noriega of the "National Television Newscast" to participate in a meeting of international television stations in Atlanta. She was unable to participate because the U.S. State Department would not grant her a visa.

Elizabeth was assigned to cover the UN General Assembly in 1993 and to report on the presence of Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina but was once again denied authorization to enter the United States.

In 1992 journalist Lazaro Barredo was invited by Johns Hopkins University to participate in an academic meeting in Washington. He could not do so because the U.S. authorities refused to allow him to enter the country.

JUVENTUD REBELDE director Arleen Rodriguez requested a visa twice, to no avail, to participate in academic events being held in the United States. On 11 January 1994 her passport was declared invalid for entering the United States for one year under the pretext that she is a member of the Cuban legislature.

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In 1993, a Kansas City radio station invited Radio Rebelde journalist Zenaida Costales to report on travels through the United States of the U.S.-Cuban Friendship Caravan, but the U.S. Interests Section in Havana told her she would not be granted a visa.

Manuel Cabale, a sports writer for GRANMA who passed away a few months ago, was invited by the Journalists' Association in Ponce, Puerto Rico, to participate in the 27th Central American and Caribbean Games held there between 19 November and 1 December 1993. Cabale was unable to attend because he was not granted a visa.

Mirta Muniz, former director of MUJERES magazine and current representative of the Australian publishing house Ocean Press, was unable to attend, for the same reason, a book fair held in Los Angeles, California, where she was going to make a presentation on the February 1993 Cuban elections.

These examples, among others, are enough to compare Cuba's attitude toward such matters. Between 1989 and 1991, the Cuban Foreign Ministry granted visas to no less than 8,000 foreign journalists, among whom were more than 2,000 Americans.

To summarize, if the history of American journalism is ever written, the effect of the U.S. blockade on Cuban journalism should without a doubt occupy an outstanding place, not only for the great limitations it placed on our work but for the way it set back our freedom of expression and the consolidation of the level of autonomy that belongs to us within the context of our society.

This freedom of expression and level of autonomy will always be at the service of Cuba's sovereignty and independence, the best patriotic traditions of our fatherland, and the conquests of socialism under the guidance of the party that was inspired by Jose Marti and which is today headed by Fidel Castro.

Government Condemns U.S. Radio, TV Broadcasts at UN

PA2910000594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2044 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 28 Oct (PL)—Cuba complained today about radio and television attacks to which it is being subjected by many powerful foreign stations that have adjusted their programs to this end.

Participating in the debates of the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization (fourth commission) of the UN General Assembly, which is studying information related issues, Cuban delegation member Edgardo Valdes reported that a growing number of shortwave radio stations are involved in such activities.

They are duly registered stations, he said, whose only objective is to broadcast to Cuba to call the citizens to revolt, to sabotage, and to murder the country's leaders.

He also mentioned the presence of similar stations that operate without a license but are nevertheless tolerated and allowed to invade frequencies allocated for meteorological services, air and maritime navigation communications, ham radio operators, and civilian defense activities.

As if all this were not enough, there is also the so-called "Radio Marti," used exclusively to broadcast in Spanish to Cuba from U.S. territory and financed by the government of that country, Valdes underscored.

Furthermore, he said, the so-called TV Marti, which has similar characteristics and objectives, operates freely, although the International Frequency Registration Council ruled against its operation.

He charged that over the past days, "Radio Marti" increased the number of frequencies over which it is broadcasting to Cuba, and the aforementioned television station, although it is not received in Cuban territory, has extended the length of its broadcast to the morning hours.

Valdes emphasized that such actions, which are contrary to the most elementary guidelines of international coexistence, to many telecommunication agreements and regulations, and to the spirit of the UN Charter, must cease.

He indicated that the new world order of information and communications to which we aspire will not be attained so long as the powerful do not respect the sovereignty of the weak and acknowledge their right to make their own voices heard.

Valdes added that the United Nation's determination to have a new order in this sphere, a determination expressed in a General Assembly Resolution back in 1979, has not meant much to many nations that have been unable to tell the world about their own realities and to enrich themselves with what they can learn from other cultures.

He said: It has always been a priority for Cuba to advance along this path. It has worked in that direction at UN forums and at the bilateral level. Cuba, however, in addition to the difficulties commonly faced by other Third World countries, confronts "the hostility of a powerful neighbor bent on barring the country's access to technologies and on deciding what information the Cuban people must receive."

He emphasized that the charges repeatedly presented by Cuba on the illegality of such actions have been ignored by those who want to turn technological superiority into an instrument for subversion.

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UN Envoy Makes 'Critical Assessment' of UN Role

PA2810200794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuba has made a critical assessment of the role played by the United Nations in the last few years particularly in maintaining peace, at the expense of working for international cooperation and the social and economic development of the people.

In assessing before the General Assembly a report on the UN work, Fernando Remirez De Estenoz, the Cuban permanent representative to the United Nations, stated that the document does not give proper attention to the principles of the UN Charter or the establishment of a fundamental objective, namely the promotion of cooperation at all levels.

The Cuban diplomat stated these aspects cannot be ignored at the present times, when wrong ideas such as limited sovereignty, intervention in the internal affairs of states, and attempts to replace cooperation with imposition are on the rise.

Ramirez de Estenoz warned the United Nations has used most of its resources to maintain peace, while putting other priorities aside, such as economic and social issues. This, he asserted, represents an inversion of priorities, adding it is necessary to evaluate if those expenses are really justified and if they respond to the needs of UN member countries.

Says Development Strategy Needs Redefinition

FL2810155694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fernando Remirez de Estenoz, Cuba's permanent representattive to the United Nations, has stated that the strategy for the development should be redefined by the international community. Remirez added that true political determination to promote development in the world must be implemented. In reference to a UN document, Remirez stressed that the UN's role as promoter of the necessary international cooperation for development must be recognized.

Russian Army Chief of Staff En Route to Havana

FL2910183194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian General Colonel Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Army, is en route to Havana to conduct a working visit to review the status of military and technical cooperation between both nations. Sources from the Cuban Embassy in Moscow, confirmed that Kolesnikov will stay in Cuba until 2 November and will meet with the top command of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. Kolesnikov's trip responds to contacts made by both countries's Armed Forces in November 1993 during a visit to Moscow by Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, the deputy FAR minister.

Arrives in Havana

PA3010194494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2334 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 29 Oct (PL)—Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the chief of the Russian Armed Forces general staff, arrived in this capital on a working visit today and described as Russia's relations with Cuba as positive.

Division General Ulises Rosales Del Toro, chief of the general staff of the Cuban Armed Forces, welcomed the military delegation at the Jose Marti International Airport.

High-ranking officers and accredited personnel in Havana were also present. Div. Gen. Julio Casas Regueiro—who, like Rosales, is a first substitute for Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro—was among the officers.

Kolesnikov laid a floral wreath at the Cacahual Mausoleum, an historic monument that holds the remains of Gen. Antonio Maceo. Maceo was one of the illustrious men who fought the war for independence against Spain in the last century.

During his stay, which will end on 2 November, Kolesnikov will visit points of military and cultural interest.

Mexicans Plan To Confront U.S. 'Racist Campaign'

FL2910164194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 30,000 Mexicans were deported this month by the United States as part of racist campaign which the Mexican people plan to confront this weekend with a boycott along the border area. The group Front Against Violence stated that it had evidence that during the deportation process thousands have been beaten and a high number of human rights violations have taken place. The situation became more complex on the Mexican side of the border where thousands of people from approximately 25 countries are located following their deportation from the United States. They are waiting for a new opportunity to cross the border.

Mexico Reported Quashing Zedillo Murder Attempt Reports

FL2910024994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Report by PRENSA LATINA correpondent Roberto Gili; from the "Exclusive" program]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Mexican police reportedly arrested a man who tried to assassinate Mexican President-elect Ernesto Zedillo.

LA JORNADA and EL ECONOMISTA reported today that one Lino Zalazar was arrested on 26 October after breaking into Zedillo's home, on the south side of Mexico City. Zalazar confessed that he had been planning to assassinate the winner of the 21 August elections, a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], for weeks.

Although Hugo Morales, spokesman for the Mexican Attorney General's Office, neither confirmed nor denied the report, he did point out that more information could become available on 30 October, when the 72-hour deadline for legally holding the suspect runs out.

Newspapers and news agencies have been circulating different versions of reports on an attempt against Zedillo since 26 October, one suggesting that the suspect is a member of the Armed Forces. A PRI presidency spokesman met the foreign press in Mexico City on 26 October to deny rumors of the attempt, describing them as absurd.

Nevertheless, one newspaper in the capital that has been holding a much more complete account of the attempt since 26 October reports that it has been under serious government pressure not to publish the report.

Institute Tallies Foreign Donations for 1994

FL2910033094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP] is tallying the aid we have received from friendly countries this year, as we approach the world meeting of solidarity with Cuba. Correspondent Ilia Sardinas reports:

[Begin recording] [Sardinas] Miriam Almanzar, an ICAP official, offered the press some details on donations received during the first six months of the year from 1,000 solidarity organizations in 120 countries. Donations included approximately 5,000 tonnes of aid destined for institutions and organizations nationwide.

[Almanzar] We see that the increase in the number of campaigns for on behalf of Cuba is universal. We could even say that there is not a place on the planet that is not working on Cuba's behalf or in solidarity with our people. It is a phenomenon of unprecedented historical dimensions. We received 2,040 donations between January and September through the ICAP alone. A donation can weigh several tonnes. We have received 2,040 donations. We've seen a significant increase in the volume and value of donations in 1994. What is being donated today is of greater value and importance.

[Sardinas] During this first six months of the year, the ICAP received donations from 20 European countries, 28 Latin American countries, seven African and Middle East countries, six from Asia and Oceania, as well as from the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. The aid received includes hygiene products, school supplies, and medicine. [end recording]

Council of State's Lage on Expanding Foreign Investment

PA3110034994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0121 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Report by Roberto F. Campos]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 30 Oct (PL)—Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State, confirmed here today during the opening of the 12th Havana International Fair (FIHAV 94) Cuba's growing economic ties with foreign firms.

In a brief statement, Lage referred to his government's intentions to extend foreign investment possibilities to all productive fields in the country.

Lage, who is also secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, said when speaking during the opening of the fair that the island's authorities have full confidence in their contacts and relations with businessmen interested in Cuba's trade activities.

He also said steps are already being taken with certain U.S. firms that are waiting for an opportunity to invest in Cuba, when Washington lifts its blockade policy.

Lage said the fair, the most important business event on the largest island of the Antilles, is 10,000 square meters in area and has 795 participating foreign firms from 46 countries, all of which exceed the number of participants in the previous fair. He added we should add to these figures the 270 participating Cuban firms in more than 200 square meters of pavilions.

The fair opened its doors at ExpoCuba, an area which was set up to display the achievements of the Cuban Revolution inaugurated in the outskirts of the capital in the 1980's and which already has room set aside for businessmen interested in trading with Cuba.

Lage said at a news conference moments later that many positive signs are being observed that can allow us to foresee the possibility of solving our problems even though we cannot speak of a recovery process in the Cuban economy.

One of these signs, he said, is the increasing creation of mixed enterprises and economic associations. In this regard, he said more than 3,000 foreign firms from 98 countries of all five continents are operating in Cuba.

He said 165 economic associations are operating in Cuba with the participation of 38 countries; among them he mentioned Spain, Canada, France, Italy, and Mexico as the most important.

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Lage said there are three important foreign business fields such as telecommunications, the nickel industry, and oil refining in addition to the field of tourism.

Lage said: Tourism (the fair's main theme), in second place, after sugar cane, is one of the main lines of business, and the sector includes 27 economic associations plus more than 37 hotel management contracts. Thirty-five airlines already operate in Cuba, and new ties are expected, Lage said.

The leader, who has been in charge of Cuba's economic sector lately, explained during his speech that more than 69 North American companies were interested in negotiating with Cuba this year, but he declined to identify them to the media out of respect due to the current restrictions those companies have in their country.

He said the difference between the current measures to allow foreign investments, the liberation of certain areas, or the appearance of an agrarian and industrial products market from the course to a capitalist market economy is the use of profits which are intended to solve the people's problems.

The official insisted the Cuban strategy is not as many people would like to see it, believing it is on its way toward capitalism, because the Cubans represent its essential goal although the similarities in certain measures might imply it.

Nevertheless, Lage clearly stated the health and education areas are off limits to foreign investments, because the possibility of increasing these investments is established in the production sector, given the new circumstances imposed after the socialist bloc's demise.

He said Cuba has not give up a planned economy but has only added market mechanisms that can help.

In this concern, he announced work has been started on a new investment law, because there was no experience in this concern when the participation of foreign capital was initially allowed, and this experience has been progressively acquired.

"We believe the conditions are given for additional progress," he warned, adding the possibility that a businessman may invest in the sugar and real estate business, on which serious studies are being made, is already being admitted.

He said there are positive signs, citing nickel, which once became the country's second line of business but collapsed when the Soviet Union disappeared because nickel sulfur was extracted in that country's plants and Cuba found itself unable to process or market the product. Sufficient investments have been made in that industry, and its marketing is on a preliminary phase.

FIHAV 94 will last until 6 October and is an excellent opportunity to develop contracts and documents of intent, stated Cuban exhibitors at the fair.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0201 GMT on 31 October reports in a Havana-datelined item that: "Carlos Lage, who is in charge of the economic area, announced today 'the Cuban Government will permit foreign investments in the sugar sector, the main product of the island's economy, and in the real estate sector.'"]

South African Minister Begins Official Visit

PA3110011894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2233 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 29 Oct (PL)— Trevor Manuel, the South African minister of trade, industry, and tourism, began an official visit to Cuba today to explore cooperation possibilities in various areas and to reinforce friendship and solidarity with the island.

"I have come to become familiar with and to exchange views with prominent Cuban individuals, to participate in Havana's (12th) International Fair (which begins tomorrow), and to assess economic prospects to bring back to Cuba a significant delegation of businessmen," Manuel said upon arrival in this capital.

Manuel's visit, at the invitation of Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, is the first made to Cuba by a representative of the government of President Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC).

In a statement to the local press, Trevor Manuel stressed the significance of his one-week stay here and said the links between the peoples of Cuba and South Africa are very solid. He also acknowledged the contributions made by Cuban internationalists in the liberation and sovereignty of the African Continent.

Havana and Pretoria established diplomatic relations one day after black leader Nelson Mandela took office in 1993 following his victory in the first multiracial elections in South Africa, which ended the segregationist regime of apartheid.

After reiterating his trip constitutes proof of the friendship and solidarity between the two countries, Manuel said from now on "we will define our plans so that we are able to do what is required of us to support Cuba and to comply with our principles."

Greeted by Officials on Arrival

FL3110015494 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Oct 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Trevor Manuel, South African trade, industry, and tourism minister, is visiting Cuba in response to Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas' invitation. Cabrisas and Angel Dalmau, Cuban ambassador to South Africa, and other authorities greeted Manuel upon his arrival. Manuel said that he hopes to familiarize himself with Cuba and that the visit is a

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positive sign for future commercial endeavors. Manuel pointed out that this visit means a lot to him from a political point of view, since he recognizes the Cuban people's efforts in the fight to support South Africa's struggle. Manuel will meet Cuban authorities, visit Havana City's development centers, and attend the inauguration of Havana City's 12th international fair. This is the first time that a South African minister has visited Cuba. He is here, representing the Mandela government, to strengthen friendly and cooperative ties between Cuba and South Africa.

Syrian Assembly Speaker on Upcoming Solidarity Meeting

FL2910150594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian parliamentarians will participate in the international meeting of solidarity with Cuba that will be held in Havana soon. This was announced by 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, president of the Syrian Assembly, during a meeting with representatives of the Arab Union of Cuba. During the meeting Qaddurah reaffirmed that Syria not only condemns the U.S. blockade but also admires the heroic struggle of the Cuban people.

Minister Signs Cape Verdian Cooperation Protocol

FL3110024994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Oct 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuba and Cape Verde have ended their ninth round of bilateral talks in Havana City with the signing of a two-year cooperation protocol. Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas said after signing the protocol that the talks prove that Cuba and Cape Verde are developing cooperative and friendly relations. The protocol, which was also signed by Joao Higino do Rosario, Cape Verdian tourism, industry, and commerce minister, strengthens Cuba's cooperation with Cape Verde in the areas of health, education, and culture, as well as opens doors to other areas such as the judicial system, labor, social security, international tourism relations, and civil aeronautics. The number of ways in which Cuba and Cape Verde can develop their relationship increases as Cuba exports more products.

Government Creates 2 Industrial, Crafts Free Markets

PA2910194994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0856 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban Government has taken a new step toward achieving its goal of reactivating the country's economy by creating two free markets for industrial products and crafts, as stipulated in Decree 192, which was published on 26 October.

Without the overwhelming popular acceptance of the agricultural markets, which opened on 1 October, the new system of markets will increase the supply of home and personal articles that are highly demanded by the people.

Based on economic and financial self-management, as was the case with the system of agricultural markets, products made by local and state industries can be sold at these new markets, as well as products made by self-employed workers who have their respective licenses and by other authorized producers.

An important function of the new markets is to offer products from the idle inventories of state enterprises, which must now compensate the lack of public subsidies by selling their unused materials and equipment.

The types of activities open to the public on these markets include selling to commercial organizations, leaving products in consignment, renting space, and offering other services, which must be paid to the market managers, as well as state taxes.

In addition to having a network of retail stores, these markets will resort to fairs and any other alternative that could promote the sale of articles in public places, as stipulated in the decree issued by the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers.

In light of the September 1993 authorization of self-employment, impromptu fairs, where individual craftsmen and producers could sell articles missing from the state-owned stores since at least four years ago, have arisen nationwide.

The novelty of this latest decree is the involvement by state producers who will be able to sell products at prices set by the law of supply and demand, as well as the chance to collect more state revenues by paying taxes and rendering commercial services.

Local economists believe the government's 1994 revenues collected through higher prices for cigarettes, tobacco, and alcoholic beverages will allow approximately 700 million pesos (same amount in dollars according to the official exchange rate) to be taken out of the circulation of surplus money, which amounted to 12 billion pesos by late June.

Trade Minister on Opening of Supply, Demand Markets

PA2810190794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1831 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 27 Oct (PL)—The creation of the industrial and handicrafts market in Cuba will contribute to the opening on 1 December of stores that will sell articles according to supply and demand, according to an official source.

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Cuban Domestic Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa said this new method of marketing products will in time lead to an increase in the country's production, depending on resources.

In this regard, he said provincial organizations and administrations are getting ready to participate in this type of market, in which state enterprises, self-employed workers, and other authorized producers will participate.

The so-called idle inventories (raw materials and equipment in warehouses) from state enterprises can also be sold there, with prior authorization from those in charge of the enterprise, Vila Sosa added in an interview published by GRANMA newspaper.

Vila said state enterprises will market their secondary production (the so-called by-products) and not their primary and basic production even when their production goals are surpassed.

He said provincial trade directorates must submit proposals next month with the number of stores they will set up for such activities, including bazaar-type stores, also called variety stores here.

Vila said that in addition to these shops, fairs and other activities may be promoted in the territories for the sale of articles in public places and other areas destined for this purpose.

The methods of marketing products that are opened to participants include selling to commercial establishments, consignments, or the renting of warehouse space, and other services, which must be paid for at the administration, including taxes.

An industrial and handicrafts market novelty is the inclusion of state producers who will be able to sell their articles at prices determined by the supply and demand forces, which according to experts will increase production.

Officials also expect this initiative will contribute greater revenues through taxes and the rendering of commercial services.

Agriculture Ministry Official on Farmers Market

PA2810195994 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Report by Mario Munoz; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban forerunner of the farmers market was the free farmers' market, an experience that differed from the current one because at that time state-owned companies could not operate as sellers and middlemen were not controlled and simply worked to make a profit. This was one of the main motives for the free farmers market cancellation.

All these frustrated experiences gave way to the farmers market, a new initiative about to mark one month. I go back to the past because from conversations with small independent farmers emerges the ghost of the sanctions that were applied against the people who logically profited from the free farmers market, which was, as the current market, governed by the law of supply and demand. That unfounded fear has prevented some people from appearing at the market, a reality that I have found in various independent farmers.

That is why in a conversation with Gonzalo Fernandez Reyes, legal director of the Ministry of Agriculture, I asked him to explain the difference between the old and new market and the legal guarantees supporting these farmers.

[Begin Fernandez Reyes recording] Like in any world market, private property has its limitations. In the case of Cuba, Cuban legislation establishes a series of limitations for those farmers. Since 1959 specifically, with the first Agrarian Reform Law, restrictions were imposed on property. One of them, which is related to what has been explained above, is that the producer is forced to deliver a part or all of his production to the state, to the marketing agencies.

What happened? When the free farmers' market was implemented, no one was punished for profiteering. When Decree-Law 149 concerning the confiscation of property due to illegal enrichment was applied, some individuals, very few as a matter of fact, were punished for illegal enrichment. But those punished at that time were not basically small farmers, but middlemen who bought produce in Holguin, just to give you an example, and brought it to Havana to resell at high prices. This situation is different from the current case.

In the current case, small farmers are authorized to participate in the farmers market, and the enrichment resulting from said participation will not be subject to sanctions. In other words, farmers' transactions for which sanctions existed on 28 or 29 September, such as selling products clandestinely or in dollars, resulted in illicit enrichment, against which we could have taken legal action and confiscate the farmers' land. Decree-Law 125 of our agrarian legislation concerning profiteers establishes that the state may expropriate a farmer's farm for conducting illegal transactions. I repeat, these transactions were illegal in the past, not today. Therefore, this provision will not apply to farmers.

There is another problem. Last Wednesday [26 October], for instance, in the markets in the capital there were 446 farmers selling in the farmers markets. Your concern is obviously present in their minds. Evidently, this concern will disappear as farmers receive more information. As you know, sometimes it is difficult to get information to farmers. They have a different personality. They have to consult with an attorney, who will explain to them these transactions are no longer considered illegal enrichment.

Perhaps this information—the concept that was forbidden before is not longer prohibited—has not been very much publicized in the press. [end recording]

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Another reason prompting independent farmers not to sell their products in the farmers market is the little use they have for money, a real objective and incentive for any producer. There are limitations on this based on the very difficulties Cuba is facing.

[Begin Fernandez Reyes recording] It is true that they have no use for that money. One of the measures that is under analysis is to seek a way to authorize farmers—depending upon the existence of stock and the country's possibilities—to purchase certain products. The country at this time does not have the possibility to buy, for instance, 100 cars to sell them to farmers. We are going to open stores to sell basically products for agricultural production and the household. Products will be sold to farmers according to their needs and potential.

We are also analyzing the case of some small farmers who are not selling all their production to the state. There are dozens of cases in which all of the farmer's production is destined for the farmers' market. Consequently, the services the state will give those small farmers will have to be evaluated. Said services will not be offered at the same prices as those given to farmers who sell all their products to the state. [end recording]

The number of farmers participating at the farmers' market has grown as they gain confidence. It was learned that 10,600 tons of products have been sold up to 23 October in Cuban farmers' markets, while in monetary terms, based on sworn declarations, sales exceeded 97 million pesos.

Commentary on Advantage of Self-Employment, Markets

FL2910034494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Commentary by Susana Tesoro; from the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Decree No. 141 was issued just one year ago, in September 1993. It expanded self-employment opportunities at a very critical period in our economic history. Skeptics believed that the state would not be able to regulate and control this new army of private sector workers. Labor and Social Security Ministry figures indicate that more than 160,000 people today produce or provide services outside of the state network, 29 percent of these in Havana City. Their services offer many advantages; likewise, it is favorable for the economy since it provides jobs for many retired citizens, whose working capacity has been reduced because of their age, and for those classified as available workers because of the economic situation.

We cannot deny that many door-to-door salesmen, middlemen, or intermediaries of the lowest category have emerged from the shadow of the decree, people who sell products stolen from the state or who perform other types of marginal work. However, taxes have been reviewed, controlling mechanisms have been improved, and both worker and customer have found a new way to solve their problem.

Farmers markets were opened just one month ago. We now have, before our very eyes, that which appears to be a novelty but which is not: the industrial market. An informed source reports that tests have been conducted in various cities in the countryside and that the response has been positive. The fact that prices are established through mutual agreement between the buyer and the seller will do what the law of supply and demand has always done, namely increase production and perfect quality, taste, and accessibility. Competition only makes us feel obliged to produce better products.

From another angle, as household budgets get tighter, the peso begins to regain its value, the circulating currency is on its way off the streets, and national revenue continues to rise. The market is stabilizing itself faster than we had originally thought, and, as far as the country's economy is concerned, despite all the obstacles, it does not stop. It continues to advance.

Sugar Minister Attends Meeting on Start of Harvest

FL2910150994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Report by correspondent Raisa Mestril, in Camaguey; from the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres, member of the Politburo, has stated that the take off of the sugarcane harvest is determined by Camaguey Province. Torres, in the company of Julian Rizo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Camaguey and a member of the Politburo, participated in the analysis of an inspection conducted on a group of complexes that will participate in the start and development of the preseason harvest [zafra chica]. Torres urged the workers to continue working without rest and with intensity because much is still pending. He added that the essential thing is to continue developing workers welfare programs. In this regard, Torres stressed the vital importance of having every complex manager personally talk with every sugarcane cutter and combine or lift operator in order to become aware of their opinions and personal needs.

Efforts made to ready mechanical equipment, essential for the early start of the harvest, was praised at the meeting. This is another example of the work conducted in the province despite the late closing of the previous harvest. It was stressed at the meeting that although it is necessary to continue working, and many things are still unresolved, Camaguey Province is ready to start off the harvest. Torres pointed out that every little detail must be checked at each complex because Cuba needs Camaguey Province to start off the harvest and to do so well. It was also stressed that tending and winter planting

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tasks must also be ket up and should progress parallel to the beginning and the development of the sugarcane harvest.

Action Against 'Negative Tendencies' of UPBCs Urged

FL2810153994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Editorial from the 24 October TRABAJADORES: "The Rebirth of Agrarian Culture"; from the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is no secret that our agriculture—sugarcane, vegetable, tuber, and grain production—is not doing well. Our agriculture is undergoing the wrenching impact of the crisis that is affecting the country. A large number of objective reasons make production very difficult, but our agriculture has also suffered from dragging along obsolete management schemes, and outdated structures. When an attempt is made to renovate and update these, we still have the dead weight of the slowest attitudes by men, and the residual effect of vices and habits that are negative for our agriculture in general.

Nevertheless, Cuba is currently seeking and finding strategies that should take us to a different kind of agriculture, confronting enormous problems, new and old, but with the undoubtable possibility—because of our condition as a sovereign and free state—of finding true, lasting, and autochtonous solutions.

In spite of all the problems, today we can aspire to give our agriculture the strategic position it should have always had, which is clearly associated with our national survival and durability, and to the perfecting of our socialism's sacred ideals of humanism and justice, which cannot be secured unless the country obtains an elevated level of nutritional self-sufficiency.

We are currently witnessing a process of progressive and profound actions that, beginning with the collectivization of most state lands, has already brought about the creation of an incipient farmers market, a sign of elasticity in the potential to transform.

We are learning to see in agriculture not only the basic function of nutrition, but also a springboard in a basic group of actions that will strengthen and consolidate our domestic market. It will serve as an inexhaustible source of employment that is lacking in other sectors; as a great supplier for our growing tourism; as an equalizer of national finances; as a savings of foreign exchange set aside for imports; and as an important exporter of sugar, tobacco, and citrus products.

The country is in need of a rebirth of its agrarian culture; it needs every man to recognize the countryside's value, what it yields, and what it means to him.

Jose Marti once said that the only inexhaustible wealth a country has is to balance its agricultural production with its consumption. Marti also said that to a specific need there should be a specific solution [a historia propia, soluciones propias] almost as if he were guessing that one century later some overly general theory would oppose an idea that he considered wise foresight.

And since that foresight has to do, in the case of Cuba, with national security, we can understand why the Revolutionary Armed Forces promptly understood the importance of the land. Nowadays, it is unthinkable in the Armed Forces that there might be a leader who, besides being a capable soldier, does not know a minimum about economics, or does not have the will and discipline to make his unit worthwhile for agriculture and food production.

In Cuba that ought to be the attribute of all those who have responsibilities within the government, in the large cities, as well as in the small towns and villages. The same applies to any person who—one way or another—organizes, conducts, or leads the social process.

It would be a mistake to leave the destiny of our agriculture to be decided by decrees, laws, or mandates and not know through constant contact the concerns of our agricultural workers what may be blocking their enthusiasm and effort; what they do not understand; what they need; what they may not have been informed of; or what they have not said because no one will listen.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Sugar Industry will undoubtedly be those mainly responsible for the organization and leadership of the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC], but they should not be the only ones responsible for a process destined to transform the profile of Cuban agriculture, which is almost like transforming the country itself.

We must say this because it is the truth: In the first months since the creation of the UBPCs, these have lacked coherence and cohesion in the work regarding the development of this vital cell of the present and future Cuba. In the real world, going beyond the mere act of creation, where reality becomes the controller and regulator of the process currently underway, there has been a lack of action, structure, and integral overview of a process which is not only economic, but in great measure also political and social. This process does not concern just one sector because it has far-reaching effects on all sectors of our economy and society in general.

It is necessary to act in a timely way against negative tendencies that have become evident throughout the evolution of the UBPC's. We need to focus on the discussion of the regulations and objectives of the UBPC's. We must reinforce, from all fronts, the struggle against excessive tutelage or negligent abandonment, attitudes that are opposites but equally harmful that have been frequently assumed by many state enterprises. We must work even harder towards the construction of

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housing for members of the cooperatives and the organized and collective solution of nutritional self-sufficiency. A careful look at the capacity of the administrators is vital. It is necessary to look at the prestige that they may have earned or lost with their performance and determine if they have the qualities to lead their workers.

Nothing but inefficient political work can justify an atmosphere of rejection for the main task in the heart of a cooperative which is manifested in the reduction of work hours. The country ought to develop an ample process of persuasion and explanations through the numerous means in its grasp to strengthen an awareness of socialist owners among the new members of the cooperatives, something hardly achieved since the creation of the UBPC's. It is necessary that the members of the cooperatives and their relatives become fully aware of the enormous patrimony placed in their hands by the Revolution and that they identify themselves as men and women who create great wealth, the same wealth that in the near future they will fully enjoy, obtaining within society the high place that belongs to the Cuban agricultural workers.

Jordan Notes Measures To Transform Farm Production

FL3110083294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Alfredo Jordan said during a tour of Las Tunas Province that some of Cuba's organic apple orchards will be converted into basic cooperative production units [UBPC] to promote vegetable production. He added that this measure is part of a process aimed at transforming farm production. The process includes creating UBPCs; awarding land to labor collectives, families, and retirees; and opening farmers markets.

Commentary on Importance of Social Security

FL3110013694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Oct 94

[Commentary by Susana Tesoro; from the "National Radio News"—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Do you plan to reach a ripe old age? Authorities recently reported that the state can no longer afford to have the Cuban social security system millions of pesos in debt. This has generated a lot of discussion within society.

Correspondent Susana Tesoro believes the issue deserves some attention.

Some believe that putting some of their income toward social security would burden their personal budgets even more, especially considering that everything is so expensive. We now must pay for water, sewer, and other services that once were free. Electricity rates have increased; more price hikes will follow. Many of the younger people who look at the situation this way are only somewhat right to do so. Some do not even think about or even believe in growing old; some older people do not understand why this is the only solution.

Let's take a look at some of the reasons:

One reason for having a social security system is that retirement ages in Cuba are lower than those in other countries, where retirement ages are set at 65 for men and 60 for women. These were the retirement ages in Cuba before the Revolution triumphed. One of our social achievements was to lower the retirement ages to 60 and 55, respectively. This allows more people to benefit from social security.

Our retirees have always received their monthly pensions. There has never been a delay in payment, something that happens quite often in countries where social security depends not only on the state but also on private banks and other organizations.

Without getting too deep into the issue, Cuba's social security system is a way of offering assistance. It not only covers monthly pensions but also contributes to institutions. Senior citizens' centers [casas del abuelo] are one example, where nonworking senior citizens benefit from specialized attention, such as medical care, food, and—most important—human contact.

The next time you consider the cost of social security, ask yourself: Will I reach a ripe old age?

Raul Castro Attends Army Experience Exchange Meeting

FL2810152494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Havana City, General of the Army Raul Castro has stated that to become an army victorious in emulation, all economic programs, combat readiness programs, and all other measurable aspects must be completed.

Raul Castro participated in an exchange of experiences between the commanding officers of the Eastern and Western Armies. With regard to emulation, Castro emphasized that both the Army and Cuba would triumph because the defensive capacity would be strengthened. The meeting took place at the headquarters of the Western Army's Unit 700 [number as heard], where Castro and his delegation witnessed first hand why this unit is the Western Army's best. Not only is the unit a pioneer in fish farming, but it is also the most outstanding in that sector. From the unit's eight hectares of breeding ponds over 46 tonnes of fish have been extracted.

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Interviews Army Chiefs

FL2910023094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Report by Margarita Torres; from the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Raul Castro has once again shown us that he is like any other Cuban: open; jovial; and a supporter of the press and Radio Rebelde, which he has known from its inception. It all began when, at my request, he took on the role of correspondent and interviewed high-level Eastern and Western Army chiefs. He complied with radio broadcasting requirements and techniques:

[Begin Castro recording] Three, two, one, zero, and fire the question. [laughter]

General Leopoldo Cintra, better known as Polito: We are here with a group of leaders from large units and General Staff chiefs from several of the provinces comprising the Eastern Army, headed by Brigadier General Perez. Today, we find ourselves here, at Unit No. 1700, headed by Colonel Nardo, and Radio Rebelde is "Doing Radio"! [end recording]

Raul inquired during this congenial dialogue about the emulation program between all three regional armies and added that he would hold back the awards unless the armies fulfill all their missions:

[Begin Castro recording] The Revolutionary Armed Forces, Cuba, and our defense readiness will be the winners in the end. Comrades: This is "Doing Radio," from fish farm Unit No. 1700. Have a good one! [laughter] [end recording]

Raul clearly treated us all to an unusual afternoon.

Raul Castro Sends Letter To Agrarian Support Division

FL2910143494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has sent a letter to the 1,800 members of the Mambi Division who are slated to work for two years to support the food program. Raul pointed out that he expects their steadfast support for agrarian food production as part of the struggle to guarantee the people's food needs. He added that this activity, together with sugarcane, is the main strategic, economic, political, ideological, and military task Cuban revolutionaries face in this difficult period.

Che Guevara's Son on Father's Support for Revolution

FL2810165194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Camilo Guevara—El Che's second son—said today that his father would never have abandoned the Cuban Revolution and added that Cuba seeks to open up to the world in spite of the U.S. blockade.

Camilo, who has been invited to visit several Catalonian municipalities by the Catalonian-Cuban Friendship Association, stated that if his father were alive he would continue supporting Fidel Castro and the Revolution.

Camilo, a lawyer who was named after Camilo Cienfuegos, indicated that there were never significant disagreements between Che and Fidel and that they were always friends. He said that his father's departure for Bolivia was simply because his principles impelled him to do so.

Camilo Guevara also stressed that Cuba is doing everything possible to forge ahead. He added that various measures have been adopted and cited the influx of foreign capital, the reorganization of the production infrastructure, and the liberalization of the industrial and consumer goods markets.

Fidel Castro Sends Message to Animal Science Institute

FL2810144994 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a message of respect and admiration to the workers of the Animal Science Institute, on the 29th anniversary of the institute.

In the ceremony, Politburo member Maria de los Angeles Garcia highlighted the direct participation of the institutes' personnel in the introduction of scientific breakthroughs in production.

Drop in Job-Related Accidents Reported

95P20100A

[Editorial Report] Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish of 26 Sept 94 on page 3 reports that during the first half of the year there have been 11,432 on-the-job accidents and 47 deaths, down from 17,500 accidents and 75 deaths during the same period last year, according to the Department of Protection and Hygiene of the Cuban Workers Federation. The article explains that while some observers may link the reduction to the current economic situation, manual labor has increased in sugar and other agricultural activities and the ministries of basic industry and construction have maintained production levels. In the past when the accident rate dropped, the number of workdays last rose, but this time fewer days off were taken, the article reports. The improved safety record is attributed to better prevention efforts and worker education.

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Haiti

Michel To Appear Before Chamber of Deputies 28 Oct

FL2810130694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The decisive test that the prime minister appointed by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Smarck Michel, will have to face this week will begin as early as 28 October because today he will face a commission of the Chamber of Deputies. Michel will have to answer numerous questions from the Haitian deputies while awaiting the decisive phase, that is the presentation of his general policy plan to the parliamentarians who will have to vote on his appointment as prime minister. Let us point out that President Aristide enjoys only weak support in the lower chamber and that opinions are already formed concerning the ratification of the general policy of Smarck Michel. Almost all Haitian deputies want the prime minister to be a peacemaker who will have to work to calm spirits in the country. Let us recall that on 27 October Michel presented the outlines of his general policy on Signal FM and called on the people for unity to prevent any and all misdemeanors in the country.

Assembly Delays Confirmation

PA2910220394 Paris AFP in Spanish 2126 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-au-Prince, 29 Oct (AFP)—Parliamentary sources today reported in Port-au-Prince that the confirmation of Prime Minister-designate Smarck Michel by Haiti's National Assembly will be delayed because his "documents are incomplete."

Michel presented his portfolio behind closed doors on Friday. The presentation took place before a Chamber of Deputies commission comprising 10 congressmen who represent the five most important political parties in the Chamber of Deputies. The commission was headed by Socialist Deputy Yves Pericles Beauge, and the presentation lasted one hour.

At one point, Michel had to return to his house to get his passport and electoral credentials he had not brought with him. Nevertheless, he still needs one essential document—a "release for the period he administered public funds" while he served as commerce and industry minister—according to the source. Michel held that post for four months in 1991 following President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's rise to power.

To obtain this "release," a bicameral (Senate and Chamber of Deputies) commission must be created and the Superior Audit and Contentious-Administrative Court must rule on the case. According to the source, it will be difficult for Michel to accomplish all of these formalities before next weekend because of the traditional 1-2 November holidays--memorial days that are strictly observed in Haiti.

Following the formal approval by the two chambers of the National Assembly, the 57-year-old businessman, who is considered to be very close to President Aristide, will still need to secure parliamentary approval for his general policy before taking over the post from resigning Prime Minister Robert Malval.

Aristide Meets Political Leaders on Elections

FL2810232794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Jean-Bertrand Aristide met about 10 Haitian politicians at the National Palace, in Port-au-Prince, on 27 October. Official sources report that the meeting lasted about one hour and was attended by: notable socialists, such as Jean-Claude Bajeux and Serge Gilles; centrists Louis Dejoie and Michel Gehy; moderate neo-Duvalierist Volvick Remy Joseph; Christian Democrat Martial Celestin; and reforming communist Rene Theodore. Claude Francois, a representative of the Lavalas Political Organization—which is led by President Aristide's close friends—was also present. Participants discussed creating a new electoral council; holding legislative, municipal, and local elections; and the possibility of organizing a national conference. Most participants praised the meeting as very positive. Volvick Remy Joseph said that this is the first step toward true reconciliation:

[Begin Joseph recording] The meeting was very positive. The political parties answered the invitation. Personally, I answered with pleasure. This is the first step toward true reconciliation, which is being advocated so much and which must precede the elections [words indistinct]. [end recording]

However, attorney Martial Celestin, prime minister under Haitian Christian Democratic President Leslie Francois Manigat and leader of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, has noted that no consensus was reached at the meeting. Let us hope that it will be reached during next week's meeting. [passage omitted]

Aristide Reportedly To Cut Public Work Force

FL2810225194 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 2200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Haiti's public sector faces turmoil as people who lost their jobs under the military regime are demanding them back from the newly restored government. To make matters worse, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has pledged to cut the 45,000-strong public work force by half. The job shortage was exacerbated under two years of military rule and an international embargo which shut down exports and curtailed other parts of the economy. As the euphoria over Aristide's return to [words indistinct] fades, his government will have difficulty reconciling high expectations for the country's economy. Haiti, a deeply impoverished country, has a very high (?incidence of) [words indistinct].

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FRAPH Leader Wants To Propose Peace Conference

FL2810215494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Emmanuel Constant, leader of the Revolutionary Front for the Promotion and Progress of Haiti [FRAPH], wants to meet President Aristide. Constant has denounced vengeful acts nationwide and has protested the dismissal of public administrators. He issued a public statement on 27 October in which he portrays himself as a defender of the Haitian people and insists that public administrators should not be laid off in a fit of revenge. We must be thinking about reopening schools, the high cost of living, and health problems instead of tearing at one another, Constant said. He also requested a meeting with President Aristide:

[Begin Constant recording] It is finally time for every Haitian—any man or woman with any political integrity who lives on this patch of land—to start working to rebuild this country, destroyed by the embargo, destroyed by internal fights, destroyed by fear and ransacking. I repeat for President Aristide what I have said all along: We must be able to live together. I humbly request to meet the president as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of holding a peace conference, which would lead to a national reconciliation pact. [end recording]

Factory Owners 'Angry' Over U.S. Blocking Shipment

FL2810224394 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 2200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Coast Guard denied docking rights on Thursday to the first commercial cargo ship to arrive in Haiti since an international economic embargo ended 15 October, leaving several thousand newly hired factory workers facing layoffs. The Coast Guard said the cargo ship Ocean Fleet was rejected because three of its containers held industrial and pharmaceutical...[pauses] chemicals improperly stored together, posing a potential hazard to 1,000 U.S. military personnel occupying Haiti's main port. Angry factory owners and shipping agents said the ship's contents—76 containers with food, medicine, relief supplies, and previously embargoed assembly plant material—left Miami last week as part of a priority shipment aimed at stimulating employment and jump-starting Haiti's ailing economy.

No Date Set for UN Mission To Relieve Multinational Force

PA2910231494 Paris AFP in Spanish 2129 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-au-Prince, 29 Oct (AFP)—Algerian Lakhdar Brahimi, special representative in Haiti for the UN secretary general, today refused to set a date for the deployment of the UN Mission in Haiti (Minuha).

Brahimi, who left Port-au-Prince today following his first visit to Haiti, which lasted one week, met twice with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide during his stay.

The diplomat said during a news conference that "he did not know" when Minuha would relieve the predominantly U.S. multinational force. While refusing to set a date, he recalled the two conditions needed for this relief to take place: "When the United Nations, which is a slow-moving animal, is ready, and when the multinational force and the UN secretary general consider the atmosphere (in Haiti) to be safe and stable."

The former Algerian foreign minister contended, "the (Haitian) A[illegible] does not represent a danger to President Aristide," and he added that there "are still problems" and that the "disarmament" (of the paramilitary) is "important."

During his stay, Brahimi met with Haitian political, religious, and business personalities. He also visited Cap-Haitien (second largest city located in northern Haiti) where most of the predominantly U.S. multinational force is deployed.

Rights Commission: 'Repressive Atmosphere' in Some Areas

FL2810234594 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Inter-American Human Rights Commission [IAHRC] has concluded its visit. The delegation, which met representatives of various sectors, said that it has noticed fundamental change in Haiti since U.S. troops arrived on 19 September. The IAHRC advised that [words indistinct] of political activities and the freedom of speech have resumed. IAHRC also pointed out that a repressive atmosphere still prevails in some areas where the multinational force has not been deployed. IAHRC called on the multinational force to double its efforts to ensure stability nationwide. IAHRC called for paramilitary groups to be disarmed and insisted on the establishment of a neutral, professional, and efficient police force. IAHRC also made some recommendations to the Haitian Government:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] There is an obligation to investigate human rights violations and to publish the findings. While that commission is being established, it is very important to compensate those who claim they were victims of human rights violations, which include the right to life, right to (?proceedings), right to private property. We have seen some illegal confiscations and seizures. The second recommendation is to form a Haitian compensation commission. There are several models for a truth commission: As in El Salvador, a national institution or a national commission could be in charge of that. [end recording]

IAHRC also denounced Haiti's prison system and recommended that the national penitentiary be closed. IAHRC suggested that the government could ask international experts to help transform one of its military camps into a model prison, since those camps will serve no purpose once the Army is restructured. The commission expressed the hope that OAS/UN civilian mission observers will be redeployed in Haiti.

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Diplomatic Notes Warn Against 'Anti-Mexican' Moves in U.S.

PA2910021994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mexican Government today informed the United States that it is deeply concerned over the anti-Mexican atmosphere created by an anti-immigration initiative—the one we know as Proposition 187—and Operations Guardian and Safeguard along our common border.

In two diplomatic notes sent to the State Department, Mexico warned that the atmosphere of hostility which currently prevails in the state of California could have adverse effects on bilateral relations and affect economic ties between the two countries.

The note reads: The Mexican Government believes the atmosphere of hostility and increasing incidence of abuse and harassment against Mexican nationals, as well as the risk of seeing economic and commercial exchange harmed, negatively affects bilateral relations between Mexico and the United States.

The note also says Mexico considers these anti-immigrant and anti-Mexican attitudes, which have been prompted by arguments in support of Proposition 187, clearly run counter to the spirit of bilateral cooperation and understanding.

If approved, the Save Our State proposal, which is known by its English acronym S.O.S. or Proposition 187, would block access to health and education services in California for children of illegal immigrants. The proposal will be subject to a referendum on 8 November, and it is supported by a majority of the population in California, although this support has been systematically declining in recent weeks according to opinion polls.

Referring to this topic, Canacintra [National Association of Manufacturers] President Victor Manuel Terrones Lopez, when referring to the immigrant problems in California, said Mexico must generate more job opportunities with the necessary remuneration to encourage our citizens not to leave the country.

Terrones Lopez issued an appeal to the various production sectors, urging them to sponsor and generate the employment our nation truly requires. Referring to the problem of Mexican immigrants in the United States, the business leader said each nation's right to establish its own laws is undeniable, but he added that these laws must not hamper the relations that have opened between Mexico and the United States—in other words, NAFTA.

Deputy Proposes Boycott Against U.S.

PA2810135094 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Oct 94 p 10

[Report by Jorge Octavio Ochoa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Victor Orduna Munoz, secretary of the Chamber of Deputies' Human Rights Committee, yesterday proposed a boycott on the payment of taxes by Mexican residents in the United States to counter California's Proposition 187.

He also requested the reinstatement of surveillance on this side of the border so that not a single article from the neighboring country may illegally enter (as contraband). Meanwhile, the Party of the Democratic Revolution's [PRD] legislative group requested the inclusion of a clause in the NAFTA to guarantee illegal workers' human and employment rights.

Both PAN [National Action Party] and PRD members in the Chamber of Deputies criticized the Senate's attitude because, they said, it has been "apathetic and indifferent," not only in defending Mexican workers but also in holding talks with its U.S. counterparts to prevent the promulgation of that law.

PAN Deputy Victor Orduna proposed that the federal congress establish, in coordination with the congresses of the states along the border, a series of legal advisory offices to protect illegal workers' rights and prepare records on the violation of those rights so the documents may be sent to international courts.

PRD Deputy Enrique Rico Arzate said the inclusion of this problem in the NAFTA clauses is feasible because U.S. farmers have asked California Governor Pete Wilson to reorient his anti-immigration policy, because it might cost them up to $3 million in losses.

According to information provided by the legislator, the United States' agricultural production has suffered a shortage of up to 30 percent in Mexican labor and this might affect all this year's harvests.

Furthermore, the California Medical College has officially stated it will reject any government order that involves reporting illegal aliens who request emergency medical services because, they said, this violates their professional code of conduct.

Interviewed separately, Victor Orduna explained the boycott on the Mexican side may be carried out with a single strategy: No purchases in the United States; no cheap labor; no crossing over to work until a human and rational policy is established.

He was asked: What has been the Mexican Congress' attitude? I believe the Congress, or even more so the Senate of the Republic, has been too indifferent. In fact, I would say Mexican senators have been extremely apathetic regarding the savage aggression illegal residents are currently suffering.

There has been no serious, reasoned proposal; there has been no contact with their U.S. counterparts to stop initiatives like the one from Wilson. Migration from one place to another cannot be controlled by building large walls. I think there has been a lack of consular work to

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define how many workers may cross over to the United States. The law of supply and demand has been allowed to operate freely.

According to the PAN legislator, a quota system could be officially established to determine how many Mexican workers may cross over during each harvest because, he asserted, it is a fact that U.S. harvests would collapse, particularly in the southern zone, if Mexicans no longer cross the border.

Mexican labor undoubtedly represents a lot of money in the United States, particularly in California, which is very rich due to the cheap labor it gets from the Mexican side. A majority of the construction work in California is carried out by Mexican workers, and crops are harvested by Mexican hands.

This has also generated taxes, because Mexicans who illegally cross the border must also pay taxes. The United States can afford to be flexible on many things, but never concerning the collection of taxes from the people who circulate or live on its territory.

"It is unreasonable, illogical, and inhuman to have people like Pete Wilson try to negate the rights of people who also pay taxes, because there is no legal or illegal status as far as taxpayers are concerned. They are all taxpayers in the United States," he insisted.

Therefore, he believes Mexicans will have to implement a blockade or boycott, a strong boycott, in which they prove that they are not only consumers but also represent a great potential force in the tax sector, in the labor sector.

Only thus will the two governments sit down to talk and establish a good neighbor policy, a human policy in which illegal aliens are not treated as criminals—which they are not. They are people who go to work there because there are not enough job offers in Mexico.

Conversely, he explained that, given the Mexican Government's inability to offer work and opportunities to all its people, it must establish a consular policy that renders less unpleasant, less xenophobic their stay in the neighboring country.

He was asked: Does Congress have the legal power to coordinate with local congresses a campaign for the blockade and to establish tents along the border to provide advise for the workers, detect possible human rights violations, and prepare records so they may be sent to international courts?

"Of course it can do this and I think the Human Rights Committee is also responsible. The committee must establish an information center on this side of the border, so Mexicans may learn what rights they have where they cross the border."

Victor Orduna emphasized: A legal advisory system can be established, must be established, but this also demands a much more energetic attitude from Congress, which has been negligent and apathetic, and has kept a low profile so far.

PRI Issues Stance Against Proposition 187

PA2810174894 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] today unveiled its stance on the California governor's Proposition 187. PRI President Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza stated in an interview that his party strongly rejects Proposition 187, which seeks to deny basic education and health services to undocumented Mexicans who live in that state.

[Begin Pichardo recording] The proposition seems to be and is xenophobic and racist. We also feel that it runs counter to the Human Rights Charter, which all civilized countries have signed. [end recording]

Pichardo Pagaza said that, if approved, the proposition will harm relations between Mexico and the United States.

[Begin Pichardo recording] The approval of Proposition 187 would create tension in our border relations and our migration policy with the United States. [end recording]

He stated the PRI sent its protest to the Foreign Secretariat to be forwarded to the United States. The PRI leaders will also send the respective communications to the leaders of the Republican and Democratic Parties, conveying their disagreement with the proposition California Governor Pete Wilson is using to get reelected.

[Begin Pichardo recording] We oppose using racist, xenophobic, and discriminatory proposals in a political campaign. [end recording]

Salinas Reaffirms Commitment To Defend Migrant Workers

PA2810192794 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within the framework of the "90 Days—90 Companies" program, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari today inaugurated 51 companies in Ciudad Juarez and, in a symbolic manner, in the country's southeast. [passage omitted]

In Ciudad Juarez, located on the border with the United States, the president today reaffirmed that his government is committed to defend the human and labor rights of Mexican migrant workers in the United States.

[Begin Salinas recording] If there are still Mexicans migrating to the United States, it is for two reasons: first, because we are barely reaching now the economic growth

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rate we planned; second, because the interrelation between these two major economies, the U.S. and Mexican economies, means there will always be temporary movements of migrants. For that reason, we are committed to defend with actions the human and labor rights of Mexican workers who migrate to the United States. They are our fellow citizens, they are human beings, and they deserve respect. Through our actions, we will defend them. [end recording]

Protests in Sonora Cut Cross-Border Traffic by 50 Percent

PA3010022394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2232 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nogales, 29 Oct (NOTIMEX)—"Operation Dignity," a boycott against bordering Arizona businesses to protest the state's anti-immigration policies, began today in Nogales at 1000 and is expected to continue over the next two days.

Mexican residents in Nogales, a border town in Mexico's northern Sonora State, launched the operation to protest recent measures by U.S. authorities to implement tough anti-immigration policies.

A growing wave of anti-Mexican sentiment has erupted in several cities following actions by U.S. police to stop the flow of illegal aliens, particularly in the states of Texas, California, and now Arizona.

Proposition 187 which was proposed by California Governor Pete Wilson and which is designed to deny illegal workers in California access to social, benefits, and education services will soon be subjected to a referendum. The climate in California against illegal Mexican workers, who are perceived as being the main cause of the economic and social problems the state is facing, has been on the rise and seems to be spreading to other U.S. border states.

"Dignity Group" activist Josefina Guerrero indicated that she has received positive support from Sonora residents in favor of the protest measures, adding that vehicles crossing the border to the United States have decreased by 50 percent.

She also said, "As opposed to other weekends, the line of cars crossing into Nogales, Arizona (north of the border), is no longer than 100 meters, when on other occasions the line has extended nearly half a kilometer."

Information leaflets began to be distributed at 1000 by civic and business groups activists. The leaflets explain that the operation is intended to urge Mexicans to abstain from making any purchases today or tomorrow in U.S. border cities as a way to protest the treatment undocumented workers are receiving.

The protest groups also condemn California's decision to implement "Operation Guardian," which was put into effect by the Border Patrol on 1 October to prevent the crossing of illegal Mexican aliens. They also are denouncing the so-called "Safeguard" measures scheduled to be implemented in Arizona in February 1995.

"This is a protest against anti-immigration policies that deny Mexican children the right to health and education services in the state of California," Guerrero indicated. She stressed that "Operation Dignity" activists are at Border Checkpoint No. 1 located in the center of Nogales; at Checkpoint No. 2, which is for pedestrians; and at Checkpoint No. 3, which is in the western part of the city.

Meanwhile, Luis Alberto Rodriguez Arvizu, leader of the Sonora Federation of National Chamber of Commerce (Fecanaco), urged the people to support the commercial boycott taking place in Sonora and Baja California. He pointed out that "Operation Dignity" is a peaceful movement and is intended to protest anti-immigration attitudes, especially Proposition 187 being promoted by California Governor Pete Wilson, who is seeking reelection during the 8 November elections. The Fecanaco leader remarked that the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce (Concanaco) and 11 of Sonora's business organizations are supporting the boycott taking place in Nogales, San Luis, Rio Colorado, Naco, Agua Prita, and Sonora.

In a message broadcast over the XENY radio station, Rodriguez Arvizu said the goal of the protest is to create an awareness among Mexicans of the significance of showing the United States that their businesses depend on what Mexican consumers purchase. He added that after evaluating the impact of "Operation Dignity" along the Sonora and Arizona border, "another commercial boycott could be implemented this coming weekend."

Boycott activities against U.S. businesses are also taking place this weekend in cities located in Mexico's Baja California, which borders the state of California. "Operation Dignity" began in Baja California with the burning of an effigy representing Governor Pete Wilson, and at the same time, the state's residents were urged not to purchase any U.S. goods.

Bridge Leading to Texas Blocked

PA3010025294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] McAllen, 29 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Traffic across the Reynosa-Hidalgo International Bridge was interrupted for more than 40 minutes today after one of its lanes was blocked by protesters opposed to Proposition 187.

The demonstration at the bridge linking the states of Texas and Tamaulipas is one of several protests taking place in a number of Mexican border cities under "Operation Dignity." Most of the protests are occurring in the states of Baja California and Sonora.

The protest march against the anti-immigration Proposition 187 was part of a plan by civic, business, and

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political groups to boycott U.S. businesses along the border for a 48-hour period.

In the border city of Reynosa, protest leader Carlos Ibarra, president of the Citizens Popular Defense Committee, noted that this action was the first of several, and he promised more would come. He added that other measures could include another blockade of the bridge. The blockade was preceded by a march that began at Reynosa's central plaza up along the thoroughfare leading to the international bridge, where a makeshift stage with enormous loudspeakers was erected.

At the bridge, nearly 90 protesters carrying posters condeming California Governor Pete Wilson's Proposition 187 decided to block one of the roads leading to the bridge, while several speakers urged pedestrains to join the protest. Some of the posters compared the California governor to Hitler. [passage omitted]

Approximately 45 minutes after the protest began, the blockade was lifted, but most of the protesters decided to continue to limit access to the bridge after vehicles and pedestrians began crossing to the Mexican side as if nothing had happened.

Labor Congress To Protest Proposition 187 at UN, ILO

PA3010031794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0110 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 29 Oct (EFE)—The Labor Congress of Mexico will formally denounce at the United Nations and at the International Labor Organization [ILO] the violation of the human rights and labor rights of 5 million Mexicans who work in the United States.

The Congress, with a membership of approximately 4 million workers, has convened to a campaign against Proposition 187, which has been promoted by California State Governor Pete Wilson and that, if approved, would deprive illegal immigrants of public assistance.

In a document released today, the Labor Congress states NAFTA should have included a clause granting labor protection to Mexican emigrants. The Congress also reports it will attempt to increase contacts with U.S. labor organizations to reach agreements of unity and solidarity in a bid to organize and defend Mexican emigrants.

The document on the situation of the Mexican emigrants states that some people do not want to admit the fact that the situation has profound social and economic causes and also is linked to unequal development in the two countries.

The document states: "Any attempt to deprive undocumented individuals in California—the state with the largest number of Mexican emigrants—of medical and educational services is a human rights violation."

According to the document, both the United States and Mexico are members of the ILO and have ratified international agreements No. 97 and No. 143 which establish an obligation to care for the essential rights of migrant workers.

Proposition 187 is being promoted by the California governor who hopes to get reelected. In his campaign, Wilson has argued that undocumented aliens are to blame for the state's economic problems. For this reason, he is appealing to the people to vote in favor of the bill.

Baja California Governor Vows To Protest Proposition 187

PA3010030394 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baja California Governor Ernesto Ruffo today admitted relations with the United States are deteriorating because of anti-immigrant measures.

[Begin Ruffo recording] Political interests are hampering relations between the two states, because many of the provisions contained in Proposition 187 are discriminatory. They establish actions to be carried out by authorities based on the appearance of people. If they appear to be foreign or undocumented aliens, they will be investigated. [end recording]

In the worldwide fight against racism, this represents a step backward, Ruffo stated. He added that what Governor Wilson is doing harms human rights, violates the Constitution of his own nation, and adversely affects the most valuable resource of humankind—namely children. In turn, our protests must be strong, the Baja California governor remarked.

[Begin Ruffo recording] We must all demonstrate in favor of human rights, respect for equality among citizens, and a positive good-neighborly relationship. Our relations must always be based on these principles. We must clearly establish these as our goals and work toward achieving the same. [end recording]

This relationship has been undermined by Mr. Pete Wilson, the governor added. Therefore, he continued, the Government of Baja California will join the Federal Government's efforts to counter this kind of policy.

PRD Demands Reopening NAFTA To Discuss Immigrant Issue

PA2810161594 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] has demanded the reopening of the

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NAFTA negotiations to discuss the illegal aliens issue. Juan Carlos Escobedo has the story:

[Escobedo] As the PRD insisted on taking tangible steps instead of sending only diplomatic notes to help our fellow countrymen, it demanded that Mexico reopen NAFTA to negotiate the illegal workers issue. PRD International Affairs Secretary Amalia Garcia and PRD Human Rights Secretary Martin Longoria pointed out that the Mexican-U.S. border situation is affecting the relations between the two countries. Garcia underscored that this is clearly a foreign policy issue, not only a domestic affair as the United States has made people believe and as Mexico has even agreed with. She also said that there are 20 recurring types of abuses and human rights violations against illegal aliens living in the United States. The human rights are guarantees accepted and signed by the two governments at the UN headquarters.

Garcia also commented that 90 percent of the people arrested by U.S. immigration agents between 1989 and 1990 were Mexican nationals. In the same period, 97 percent of the people murdered at the border were also Mexican citizens. Amalia Garcia termed as weak Mexico's condemnatory statements and demanded tangible measures based on international law. One such measure, she asserted, is to reopen the NAFTA negotiations to discuss the immigration problem on a government-to-government basis. [passage omitted]

Aspe on Accord With U.S. To Fight Money Laundering

PA3010160294 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico and the United States today established a new system to halt the laundering of millions of dollars from drug trafficking activities. Mexican Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe and U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen signed an agreement establishing the world's largest information network to exchange information on money laundering.

[Begin Aspe recording] This agreement stems from the need to rapidly exchange information between Mexico and the United States. It will become a very useful tool within the legal frameworks of both countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Too many people are hiding their narcotics profits or dodging taxes. The amount of concealed profits is unknown, but Bentsen believes it is about $300 billion.

[Begin recording] [Aspe] That is correct. Perhaps what worries us most is the fact that we do not know exactly how much money is being laundered.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the main aspects of the agreement you signed today?

[Aspe] Well, we have signed two treaties with the United States, one on financial information and the other on fiscal information. But we needed to conclude a very important agreement, which is the treaty to fight money laundering.

This treaty gives us an expeditious method of requesting information from the United States on different money laundering operations. In addition, the United States will be able to request similar information from us.

This agreement will have to be ratified by our Senate. From now on, we will have a great mechanism to fight this illicit practice. We are very satisfied with this accord. [end recording]

In this country, no results have been accomplished in containing money laundering. [passage omitted]

Within the United States we are seeing some progress, because now it is more expensive for drug traffickers to conceal narcotics profits. But this prompts drug traffickers to transfer their funds from the United States to countries such as Panama, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Europe. It is cheaper for drug traffickers to conceal their drug profits in financial institutions in those countries.

Without detracting from the importance of containing drug shipments, the U.S. Treasury Department believes it is more important to know where the money from drug sales is being concealed. When this is determined, authorities will be able to say there has been progress.

Chiapas PRD Leader Said 'Murdered' Due to Personal Reasons

PA2910124594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0141 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez (Mexico), 28 Oct (EFE)—Angel Morales Gallegos, a local leader of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) in the southeastern state of Chiapas, has been murdered supposedly by ranchers, PRD sources informed today.

Morales was organization secretary of the PRD in Chilon, located approximately 160 km north of Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of Chiapas, according to Jorge Moscoso, president of the PRD in Chiapas.

The Chiapas government sent a commission, which includes PRD members, to Chilon today to investigate the murder.

Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno has said the assassination of Morales Gallegos was due to personal reasons and has no political implications according to preliminary police investigation.

A PRD leader was murdered in Chiapas last September, and 260 members of this party have been assassinated in the last six years.

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The PRD is the third leading political force in Mexico and obtained third place overall in the recent presidential elections with 17 percent of the votes.

One Dead, 5 Injured in 3 Clashes in Chiapas

PA3110021494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0106 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez (Mexico), 30 Oct (EFE)—One person died and five were injured in three clashes that occurred in Chiapas State, in Mexico's southeast.

The first clash occurred in the town of Simojovel, where Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) members attacked with weapons and machetes members of the Simojovel Civic Front.

The event, in which one person was killed, occurred when the PRD activists prevented the passage of a station wagon in which members of the front were traveling, and the clash ensued.

The second event occurred between supporters of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations, and four people were injured.

In Angel Albino Municipality, a peasant was shot to death by a member of the so-called "white guards," armed groups under the command of caciques in the region.

These violent incidents occurred three days after a PRD leader was assassinated in Chilon Municipality, Chiapas, a Mexican state where a still unsolved armed conflict broke out on 1 January.

'Civil Insurgency' Actions Planned in Chiapas

PA2810164494 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 24 Oct 94 p 10

[Report by Jose Gil Olmos]

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 23 October—The Democratic State Assembly of the People of Chiapas [Asamblea Estatal Democratica del Pueblo Chiapaneco—AEDPCH] has agreed to promote a series of "civil insurgency" mobilizations whose main center of action will be Tuxtla Gutierrez, so "that the people's will expressed at the polls on 21 August will be respected."

At the end of a two-day meeting held in San Cristobal de las Casas yesterday and today, the AEDPCH agreed to block several Chiapas roads on 1 December and declare an indefinite sitdown strike, starting on 6 December. In addition, the AEDPCH agreed to seize the capital of the state, close the road to the city, and occupy public offices and radio stations.

This AEDPCH, which comprises the State Council of Indian and Peasant Orgnizations (CEOIC), the Women's State Convention, the Civil Society Movement, and the Party of the Democratic Revolution, also agreed that from 4 to 6 November (the date of the second session of the National Democratic Convention) they will carry out actions of "civil disobedience" throughout the state.

On 20 November, these organizations will stage a march and a rally in Tuxtla Gutierrez. In addition, they will seize radio stations in the downtown sector. From 1 to 4 December, they will seize several mayor's offices in Chiapas "to repudiate the imposition."

On 5 and 6 December, they will begin a march and will gather in Tuxtla Gutierrez from 6 to 8 December.

To promote these actions, AEDPCH spokesmen noted, "brigades will be formed in each region to simultaneously promote assemblies in the poor neighborhoods, the residential districts, the ejidos, and the municipalities. This is how the people's power of the government for the transition to democracy will be built."

In a document released this evening, the Assembly stated: "It is recognized that in the current phase of civil insurgency, the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez will be the center of the actions, consequently, it is necessary to carry out emergency work among the people to win supporters and militants, and this will be carried out by the civilian society in Tuxtla."

The participants of the state assembly held in this city also agreed to organize campaigns to collect food for the marches and sitdown strikes, as well as to mobilize the country's autonomous indian regions.

They also urged the citizens "to accept responsibly the current situation," because "it is urgent to promote a transition to democracy as the only path to avoid war."

They stressed that in Chiapas, "the transition government promoted by the State Assembly is the only political solution to the lack of government and the war."

"The solution to the postelectoral conflict in Chiapas is one of the unavoidable conditions to resume the dialogue," the AEDPCH said and reiterated its "firm decision to continue fighting peacefuly as the only alternative to stop the war."

Indian, Peasant Groups Decide To Shut Down Schools

PA2910184494 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Indian and peasant organizations that form part of the Chiapas State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations [CEOIC] have decided to shut down elementary and secondary schools in conflict areas and to prevent the arrival of teachers unless they are prepared to join the Indian struggle.

A communique sent to this newspaper by leaders of the Regional Organization of Coffee Producers of Ocosingo

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lists the main agreements reached on 24 October by 60 communities from the municipalities of Ocosingo, Altamirano, Oxchuc, and Chilon and by 28 school centers—monolingual and bilingual schools—and 120 teachers.

It has been explained that these accords were reached to abide by agreements produced by the National Democratic Convention on 10, 11, and 12 October on the Indian people's right to self-determination.

There are six points of agreement by the communities:
1. To shut down elementary and secondary schools in the communities of the conflict area.
2. To shut down all school supervision centers and activities in the conflict region.
3. No teacher will be allowed in the communities where education centers have been closed.
4. Teachers with an awareness and a willingness to participate in the Indian struggle may join it.
5. Teachers should draft a new education project in line with the interests of the Indian communities taking into consideration the region's ethnic conditions.
6. Teachers no longer working in the conflict region are subject to what the Indian communities may determine for them.

Correspondent Betzy Villareal Rodas has reported the cattlemen, landowners, and neighbors who had been maintaining a watch in Tuxtla Gutierrez after it had been dropped by others have also decided to leave the main square where they had stayed for approximately four months and have returned to their communities.

The plaza remains in the hands of National Peasant Confederation [CNC] peasants from the Union of Sugarcane Producers from four municipalities around the Pujiltic sugarmill, in Venustiano Carranza, who are protesting the state government's failure to respond to their demands.

Correspondent Villareal has reported that the Agrarian Matters Coordinating Board of the state government has informed that the invaders of land of Chicomuselo Municipality, in the border region, who kidnapped eight people in the community of Nueva Grecia on 23 October and destroyed humble huts and their scanty furniture have decided, as a result of an agreement with the coordinating board, to voluntarily vacate the area.

They pressured the association of rural production coowners with trespassing and desisting from working their land. They and trespassers in the municipalities of Frontera Comalapa, La Concordia, Trinitaria, Teopisca, and the Pujiltic region, in Venustiano Carranza, have agreed to peacefully leave those lands.

Correspondent Villareal has reported that Somojoval Municipality residents have asked the local government of Javier Lopez Moreno to immediately reestablish the order broken by peasants who are militants of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] and who have seized the municipal building.

The residents have reported that the PRD peasants blocked access to the municipality and shut down water services and that fearful parents have not sent their kids to school.

Villareal has reported the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of the People of Chiapas will convoke a popular jury that will publicly try Ofelia Medina Cano, head of the electoral law office of the people of Chiapas, who could be accused of usurpation of functions and other related crimes.

Villareal has reported farmers are hiring approximately 80,000 Central American day laborers annually in view of a lack of workers to harvest coffee, cacao, corn, and plantain, among other agricultural products. These laborers cross the border both legally and illegally for temporary work.

Francisco Lara, who is in charge of the observation post of the National Human Rights Commission, has said charges of alleged Mexican Army incursions in areas where the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] operates, as well as charges of alleged violations of individual guarantees by soldiers in military checkpoints, are unfounded.

Meanwhile, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] has denied having sponsored the armed movement in Chiapas and has stated its respect for Mexico's sovereignty.

URNG Commander Gaspar Ilom has said there is no relationship at all between his organization and the EZLN. He has said: "We are a movement built with a basis on Guatemalan efforts and national conceptions."

Such rumors have been spread, he has said, by Guatemalan Army spokesmen who want to muddle the negotiations on a global human rights agreement and to create an adverse atmosphere for the URNG in Mexico.

Bishop Ruiz: Governmental Changeover Hindering Peace Talks

PA2910004194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 24 Oct 94 p 10

[Report by Antonio Roman—all quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, the mediator in the Chiapas peace process, yesterday said the changeover in the federal administration has hindered the necessary continuity to progress with the peace process. "We have entered a very delicate situation, because no actions are being taken while those who will be included in the next administration have yet to take office," he said.

This is why, he explained, the mediators in the Chiapas conflict recently listed an alternative proposal on the

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agenda: "Should it be thoroughly examined and taken seriously, substantial progress can be made in the pacification process."

During a news conference, after saying mass on the *Day for Peace* [italics as published] at the Guadalupe Basilica, the bishop stressed "difficult and somber" events had taken place, such as the murders of Luis Donaldo Colosio and Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, which have blocked or prevented progress in the peace process.

Nevertheless, he said, along with these harmful events many new players have emerged who not only demand peace, but who are also willing to work for it.

During the homily, the bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas indicated that the same way the government will make a change in the presidency, the Mexican Episcopal Conference will elect a new Board of Directors this week. The bishops will be in charge of the various episcopal commissions "to positively influence and announce their message to the local community at a time when we are full of uncertainly."

Nevertheless, speaking before 8,000 faithful assembled at the basilica and recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah, he said: The road is one of watching over the rights of others and practicing justice.

"These words, he said, are enlightening at a time when much is being said about human rights. Nevertheless, there are few times when we feel that the duty is not so much to proclaim and defend our own rights, but rather the rights of others—preferably the rights of those who, under the power structure, have no recognized rights and are abandoned.

"When we decide to watch over the interests of the abandoned, then we will change our society and we will be on the road toward a new, more just and brotherly society," said Samuel Ruiz while concluding the mass. Many of those present shouted vivas to the San Cristobal bishop and cried out: "We want bishops on the side of the poor."

"We have perceived and almost touched peace, justice, reconciliation, and progress toward changes in a new society. Nevertheless, it now and then appears to retreat, and at any given moment confusion seems to emerges again and darkness prevails. However, this is not so, and today more than ever the seeds of the construction of peace are appearing in all of those willing not only to proclaim and grab it, but also to make it real," he said.

The cleric said it would be an error to pretend that peace can be achieved simply through dialogue and written agreements. "Justice and peace are not expected of others; rather, it is our hope to construct it—a hope founded by all of those who live in this society and who are committed to this transformation. Peace is a conquest, although it is also a gift from God."

Samuel Ruiz invited all parties, not only those who in some way are directly involved in the peace dialogue, to join in this process, which "in effect, will be a long one."

Salinas Meets Ruiz, Madrazo on Peace Initiative

PA3110145494 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Oct 94

[From "Early Morning" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new peace initiative is expected in Chiapas following President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's meeting with Peace Commissioner Jorge Madrazo Cuellar and Mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz on Sunday.

Just 32 days before the change in government, the Chiapas issue continues to concern the Presidency. President Salinas spoke with Madrazo and Ruiz Garcia during a closed-door meeting at Los Pinos on Sunday.

The Presidency issued a communique noting that the commissioner and Ruiz Garcia had briefed the president on the measures being taken in Chiapas to reach a dignified peace.

During the meeting, the bishop's work was recognized and it was said it must be strengthened. Once each party explained its position on the Chiapas situation, President Salinas ordered that an airplane filled with medicine be sent to the neediest municipalities in that state on Monday.

Madrazo expressed his willingness to meet with the members of the Mediation Commission recently proposed by Bishop Ruiz Garcia as soon as possible.

The communique added that this will be done jointly and expeditiously to continue the search for peace with justice and dignity in Chiapas.

Police Hold Suspect in Possible Zedillo Assassination Bid

PA2910034294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 28 Oct 94 p 13

[Report by Juan Manuel Venegas]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday evening, a man approximately 40 years old entered the residence of President-elect Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon with the alleged intention of killing this Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] leader. The man, who says his name is Lino Salazar, was arrested and questioned at the Federal Judicial Police station.

A police source has confirmed that Salazar was arrested and has mentioned three motives for entering Zedillo's residence. He first said he was an arms trafficker and incriminated several neighbors of the PRI leader. Later, he said he was a member of the Zapatist National Liberation Army, and finally he said he was a pacifist.

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According to the police source, Salazar confirmed he entered the residence with the intention "of assassinating Zedillo."

Lino Salazar is under arrest and he will be charged with premeditated homicide. The people incriminated by the man were interrogated that very same night and later released when the authorities verified that Salazar's arms-trafficking story was bogus.

Zedillo's personal security and that of his office in Cuicuilco have been reinforced since two nights ago when rumors spread about a possible attack. Aides of the PRI leader have denied the rumors.

This reinforcement measure, which was coordinated by General Roberto Miranda, contrasts with a decision adopted at a PRI installation a few days ago when military personnel was replaced by private security guards.

According to information provided by members of the Presidential Staff, at the Cuicuilco Office there are nearly 1,000 agents who take turns providing 24-hour-a-day security. Strict access controls have been implemented along with this security measure.

Regarding the situation at the PRI office, the unofficial explanation is that Zedillo has no plans to make frequent visits to the office on Insurgentes Norte and Violeta. As far as it is known now, there is only one event scheduled to take place there in the near future and that will be in two weeks.

The event will be the delivery of the PRI's internal reforms program and Zedillo's formal farewell to his party. According to the agenda, the ceremony has to take place before the elections are declared legal and before the Electoral Board declares the vote in favor of the former Public Education secretary. After this, he will be a "passive member" of the party, as he promised.

Attorney General Denies Alleged Attack

PA2910034794 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0054 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 28 Oct (DPA)—The Attorney General's Office [PGR] today indirectly denied a report of an alleged foiled attack on Ernesto Zedillo but admitted that the bodyguards of the virtual president-elect detained an armed individual who was trying to enter and rob a neighbor's house.

The newspaper LA JORNADA reported today that a man identified as Lino Salazar, approximately 40 years of age, entered Zedillo's residence on Wednesday with the intention of killing him.

The PGR confirmed the arrest of Lino Salazar Diaz but stated that it occurred when the individual was trying to enter a house next to Zedillo's "with the intention of robbing it and carrying a .22-caliber weapon."

Citing an unidentified police source, LA JORNADA reported that the individual had identified himself as an arms trafficker, then as a member of the Zapatist guerrillas of the southern state of Chiapas, and finally as a "pacifist."

Without mentioning the newspaper report, the PGR reported in a communique that Salazar Diaz has several criminal charges on his records: theft, damage of private property, rape, assault, and breaking and entering.

The individual, the Attorney General's Office said, "confessed to the charges, saying he had tried to break into the property with the intent to steal."

Salazar Diaz was arraigned before a criminal judge for attempted robbery and carrying a lethal weapon without a permit.

This is the second reported attempt in the past few weeks on the life of the candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], which won the 21 August elections.

The first rumor of a failed attempt on Zedillo, which was never officially confirmed or denied, circulated a few days before the assassination of PRI Secretary General Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu on 28 September.

Luis Donaldo Colosio, Zedillo's predecessor as PRI presidential candidate, was gunned down at the end of an electoral meeting in a poor neighborhood in Tijuana, on the U.S. border, on 23 March.

Zedillo Denies Media Reports

PA2910212994 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1835 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 29 Oct (DPA)—President-elect Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon today denied local media reports indicating he was the target of a murder attempt.

"There was no violence in my house. It is absolutely false that anything such as the incident described happened," Zedillo said in statement to the Mexico City newspaper REFORMA.

Yesterday, the Attorney General's Office [PGR] itself indirectly denied the report of the foiled attempt, although it did say police had arrested an armed man as he was trying to break into a nearby home with the intention of burglarizing it.

Zedillo today told REFORMA: "The police arrested a vagrant in the neighborhood who was snooping around the house in the early hours of Wednesday morning."

However, LA JORNADA, which yesterday published a report on a alleged attempt, again today cited an anonymous police source and reiterated that the suspect said in his deposition that he was planning to make an attempt on the life of the victorious candidate in the 21 August elections.

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The PGR said the man, who has been identified as Lino Salazar Diaz and who has an extensive criminal record, confessed he was attempting to break into a nearby home armed with a .22-caliber pistol to steal.

In his statement to REFORMA, Zedillo pointed out that Salazar Diaz apparently "had taken drugs and wanted some attention."

Citing an anonymous police source, LA JORNADA indicated that the suspect admitted in his deposition that he had planned to shoot Zedillo "from a roof close to Zedillo's home," which is located in the residential neighborhood of Lomas de la Quebrada.

The newspaper SUMMA, which also published the report, today described the PGR communique as "fraudulent" and pointed out that Salazar Diaz had indeed tried to break into Zedillo's home.

Salazar Diaz, who in the past has been charged with theft, damage of private property, rape, assault and battery, and breaking and entering, has been arraigned on charges of attempted burglary and carrying a weapon without a permit.

This is the second time in recent weeks the media have carried reports of foiled murder attempts against the winner of the recent presidential elections.

Police Arrest 1 of Most Sought-After Drug Traffickers

PA2910203594 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "Echo Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] We have Ricardo Pena on the telephone at this time. He has important information. The Federal Judicial Police have apparently arrested Juan Chapa Garza, one of the most sought-after drug traffickers by U.S. and Mexican police. Ricardo Pena, good afternoon.

[Pena] Good afternoon Miguel, the Attorney General's Office informed a few minutes ago that the police were able to arrest Juan Chapa Garza in the city of La Paz, Baja California Sur. Chapa Garza is considered one of the most sought-after drug traffickers by U.S. and Mexican authorities. Chapa Garza is also considered to be one of the leaders of the international cocaine and marijuana network linked to the Colombian drug cartels.

The U.S. Government has requested the extradition of the alleged drug trafficker. Juan Chapa Garza is flying to Mexico City on a special plane from the Attorney General's Office, and it is expected he will be presented to the media in the next few hours. That is the information we have so far.

[Announcer] No details of how he was arrested?

[Pena] We do not have that information yet. We are waiting for the authorities at the Attorney General's Office to provide us with that information. He will be presented to the media later, and they are going to give us all the details of this arrest, which took place in the city of La Paz, Baja California Sur.

Presumed To Be Juan Garcia Abrego

PA3010153494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2344 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz, 29 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Lenin Medina Ruiz, a representative of the Attorney General's Office (PGR) in the Mexican State of Baja California Sur, announced today that alleged drug trafficker Juan Chapa Garza or Jose Luis Garcia Trevino has been arrested.

The PGR representative in this northwestern state added that the alleged drug trafficker "also uses the aliases Juan Garcia Abrego and John Chapa."

Garcia Abrego is the alleged leader of the drug trafficking group called the "Gulf Cartel," one of Mexico's largest.

The PGR official explained that the arrest had been made on Friday at the Los Arcos hotel after Garcia Abrego held a news conference to announce investments in the state's fisheries sector.

He added that Juan Chapa Garza or Jose Luis Garcia Trevino was arrested in response to a request from the PGR in Coahuila State because U.S. courts have requested his extradition.

Medina Ruiz said that 18 Federal Judicial Policemen and four Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agents participated in the operation and have testified to the facts.

He explained that Armandina del Bosque and pilots Alejandro Armando Carriles Cardenas and Federico Masa Vazquez, who were with the prisoner, also testified at the PGR. He said that these individuals have not been arrested.

According to Medina Ruiz, the airplane in which Chapa Garza or Garcia Trevino traveled from Saltillo, the capital of Coahuila, to La Paz, a Lear jet 25-DXARCG owned by Servicios Aereos Internacionales, has been seized.

Garcia Trevino, who claimed to be general director of the Aztlan- Premier Group, told local reporters on Friday that he is not Juan Garcia Abrego. He added that his properties and possessions are the fruits of his labor.

Garcia Abrego 'Confidant' Arrested

95WB0007F Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Sep 94 pp 5-A-3, 7-A-3

[Article by Roberto Melendez S.]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Federal Judicial Police [PJF] agents in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, captured the drug trafficker Raul Guerra Barrera, considered one of the

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"closest confidants" of the Tamaulipas cartel chief, Juan Garcia Abrego, with approximately 400 million new pesos' worth of cocaine base in his possession. The authorities further revealed the capture, in the same town, of Epifanio Perez Solis, a member of the criminal groups headed by Oscar Malherbe and "El Cabezon" Sosa, also public poisoners.

Continuing the special operation against organized crime, federal agents in Cancun, Quintana Roo, seized nearly four kg of pure cocaine; and those in Sonora confiscated approximately a ton of pressed marijuana, some of it found on the railroad. Furthermore, in Chihuahua, they destroyed 45 tons of cannabis indica growing on four plantations.

According to information supplied to the PJF general director, Adrian Carrera Fuentes, in Matamoros, after a lengthy investigation the agents captured Guerra Barrera, with slightly over 150 kg of pure cocaine. A close associate of "capo" Garcia Abrego, he is wanted by several judges for committing various illicit acts, primarily crimes against health. Thanks to the operation in question, which is being conducted throughout the country at the order of Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu, Epifanio Perez Solis was captured as well. Involved with the drug traffickers Oscar Malherbe and "El Cabezon" Sosa, he is accused of the crime of transporting firearms which are for the exclusive use of the Army and Navy, crimes against health in their various forms, and even homicide.

The authorities stated that those now indicted could be considered "keys" to the criminal organizations headed by Garcia Abrego, Sosa, and Malherbe. Hence, their captures constitute a severe blow to those criminal rings. [passage omitted]

The Attorney General's Office also reported that, in cooperation with the institution's air team, Federal Judicial Police agents under the command of the deputy representative, Francisco Sanchez Naves, discovered and eradicated four marijuana crops in the municipality of Namiquipa, Chihuahua. They covered an area of 31,500 square meters, on which 180,000 bushes of the toxic substance had been planted, reaching an average height of 1.70 meters.

The authorities specified that, during the operation, 45 tons of drugs were incinerated. [passage omitted]

Military Joins National Antidrug Campaign

95WB0007D Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 38-A

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, 12,800 members of the military, backed by 560 land vehicles and 23 aircraft, began, in nearly all parts of the country, one of the most intense campaigns aimed against poppy and marijuana growers.

This operation supplements the permanent battle against those crops, now being intensified because of the rainy season, since the rainy season is beneficial for the planting and development of the bushes.

The crops are located primarily in Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Nayarit, Jalisco, Zacatecas, Colima, Michoacan, Mexico State, Puebla, Veracruz, Guerrero, and Oaxaca.

This campaign will continue until 29 October, gradually extending throughout the country. However, it has been conducted in other states under the direction of the forces detailed to the various military zones and regions.

PJF: No Foreign Police in Antidrug Efforts

95WB0007A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Sep 95 pp 5-A, 31-A, 44-A

[Article by Roberto Melendez and Manuel Cabrera]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, 24 Sep—The Federal Judicial Police [PJF] director, Adrian Carrera Fuentes, claimed that the Mexican Government has sufficient resources and capacity to deal successfully not only with the drug traffic problem, but also with organized crime in general. He declared that foreign police forces would not be allowed to carry out operations in Mexico's national territory under any circumstances.

He remarked that Mexico's policy in its battle against the drug trade is well defined, and is the sole, exclusive responsibility of Mexicans. The cooperation of other security forces is being given only in the form of exchanges of views and information, with programs that are gradually being intensified.

Carrera Fuentes was interviewed at the conclusion of a work meeting held with high-ranking officials from the PGR [Attorney General's Office], SHCP [Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit], and Federal Highway Police, as well as U.S. diplomatic and police officials. He stressed that the instructions from Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino are precise, based on the principle that efficiency is not incompatible with integrity, or respect for human rights and individual guarantees.

The official emphasized that Mexico has the human, economic, and material resources to cope with the drug trafficking problem and the crimes associated with it. However, this does not imply refusing the support and cooperation of other police agencies which, however, must show absolute respect for the national sovereignty.

Carrera Fuentes, who has had a long career in police investigation and security, added that much still remains to be done in the daily battle being waged against the drug traffic. However, he added, the great efforts and sacrifices made during the current administration, the results of which "are obvious to everyone," cannot be ignored.

He maintained that the entry of drugs into the country and their production have declined significantly, "as a

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result of the crackdown by the Mexican authorities, particularly the Army and Navy." He also noted that "a high percentage" of the drugs that do reach the national territory is confiscated.

He stressed that the Federal Judicial Police relations with foreign police organizations, such as Interpol, the FBI, and the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration], are based on understanding, solidarity, and cooperation. Nevertheless, they are confined to exchanges of views and information, and neither side may operate in territory that does not belong to it.

Accompanied by Commanders Jose Luis Patino Esquivel, Isaac Sanchez Perez, Albino Huerta Miranda, and Francisco Sanchez Naves, the police chief declared that the forces subordinate to him consist of individuals who have proven their efficiency, dedication to service, and integrity, as shown by the results. He added that those who have distanced themselves from ethics and legal standards have had to answer for it, even in the courts. [passage omitted]

PJF Unit Joins Campaign 3-94 in Yucatan

95WB0007C Mexico City EXCELSIOR STATES SECTION in Spanish 24 Sep 94 p 4

[Article by Atilano Gonzalez Villa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Merida, Yucatan, 23 Sep—A detachment of 25 Federal Judicial Police [PJF] agents arrived in the state as part of National Campaign 3-94 against the drug traffic, in which 23,000 Mexican Army and Air Force members also are participating. This announcement was made today by the state's representative from the Attorney General's Office (PGR), Jorge Ortega Rosado.

The official reported that 2,000 agents, representing the PGR, are taking part in the national operation, so as to complete this campaign by the end of October.

He noted, however, that when the judicial agents arrived, they reported to the local office, greeted him, exchanged views, and left the town for the state's interior section, possibly enroute to the eastern zone bordering Quintana Roo.

He also explained that the national antidrug campaign is a reinforcement of the normal action taken by the official agencies responsible for combating drugs. It includes the destruction of plantations and a crackdown on drug production and distribution, as well as the dismembering of the networks dealing in and transporting these products throughout the national territory.

He stressed that the Federal Judicial Police, as part of their regular work, are maintaining surveillance over the entire state, on the lookout for violations of the law.

Ortega Rosado considered the reinforcement, with 25 agents added to those already detailed to the state, normal, because an intensive antidrug campaign has been initiated this week, and is due to be completed by the end of next month.

Judicial Cooperation Treaty With Colombia To Be Signed

95WB0007E Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Sep 94 pp 5-A, 32-A

[Article by Aurelio Ramos M.]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico and Colombia will sign a treaty for judicial cooperation with a broad scope, including methods for uncovering "money laundering" and procedures for conducting joint searches for criminals. Its purpose is to achieve a more effective battle against the drug traffic in both countries. This announcement was made yesterday by that South American nation's ambassador, Ramiro Eduardo Osorio Fonseca.

Interviewed at the end of a visit paid to the secretary of government, Jorge Carpizo McGregor, the diplomat (representing the Latin American country hardest hit by the drug traffic) warned that the capacity to corrupt all social classes possessed by those engaged in drug dealing is even more dangerous than the terrorist acts often committed by the latter.

He asserted that the battle against that phenomenon must be waged in compliance with the law, but it also requires precautions against destroying an individual's reputation on the basis of mere suspicion.

The Colombian ambassador said that his visit to the SEGOB [Government Secretariat] was made to greet Carpizo and introduce his country's new representative in Mexico, Doctor Gustavo Greg, as well as to analyze aspects of the extensive judicial agreement.

He added that this treaty will allow for free-flowing communication on judicial matters, as well as exchanges of support, opinions, and information in the justice area, so as to make the policies in this respect more useful to the two nations.

He explained that there are already drafts of the document, which are being analyzed on the various levels of authority involved in the issue, including, among others, the foreign ministries and offices of the prosecutors of justice. It will later be submitted to the legislative branches for consideration.

Ambassador Osorio Fonseca observed that Mexico and Colombia could cooperate on activities such as the search for criminals, because both countries are waging an intrepid battle requiring channels to convey timely information, so as to make it more effective.

He claimed that the drug traffic is not a problem for Colombia or Mexico alone, but it is global. He indicated that Colombia has expended immense efforts, costing it many lives, to combat this traffic, and has allocated much of its budget for that purpose. However, he

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remarked, the problem is that there are very large markets in the United States and Europe, where the phenomenon has not been sufficiently attacked.

He said that money laundering is one of the areas in which effective, persistent action must be taken, on an international scale, noting that, if investments of "hot" money can be averted, the drug trade will be fought successfully.

Quoting the new Colombian president, Ernesto Samper Pizano, the diplomat declared that the drug traffic has a corrupting capacity that is even more dangerous than its capacity to destroy, or to set bombs.

In conclusion, the out-going ambassador claimed that the battle against the drug traffic must include systems for control and clear visibility of the assets of officials authorized to make important decisions.

He commented: "There must be very clear monitoring of the declarations of assets made by those officials. Other measures also must be applied, to deprive corruption of operating space, in view of a phenomenon that has a truly shocking capacity to corrupt."

Marijuana Found in Sonora

95WB0007B Mexico City EXCELSIOR STATES SECTION in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Hermosillo, Sonora, 24 Sep—A marijuana plantation on an area of 300,000 square meters was discovered by State Judicial Police members, who surprised nearly 150 persons while they were harvesting and packing the weed. They caught only nine of them, and released two captives being held on that site, according to Rodolfo Rene Tavares Galindo, the force's operational director.

He added that the discovery of the enormous cannabis indica plantation occurred at 0430 hours, when agents assigned to the town of Benjamin Hill, 125 km north of this capital, were making an inspection tour of the San Miguel ranch, owned by Angel Valencia.

When they were spotted, those present ran into the woods, taking advantage of the darkness. Most of them managed to escape but, in a makeshift hut on that site, the police found Encarnacion Hidalgo and Jose David Martinez Martinez, both aged 28. Their relatives reported that they had been kidnapped a few days earlier in the aforementioned community.

"Beaten severely on the legs and arms, they were being guarded by Servando Lopez, who was carrying a 38 caliber semiautomatic rifle," according to Tavares Galindo, who added that the gun, with two full cartridge clips, was seized from that individual.

Also captured were Ramon Lopez, Gilberto Leon, Cesar Enrique Higuera Perez, Julian Varela Lopez, Roberto Jacobo Anaya, Dolores Higuera Obeso, Juan Manuel Lopez Gastelum, and Irineo Campos German.

State Judicial Police agents assigned to the police bases in Carbo, Santa Ana, Benjamin Hill, and Hermosillo were ordered to destroy the plantation. They received cooperation from Mexican Army personnel sent to that site, located 10 km from the aforementioned community.

Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez Show Record Drug Users

95WB0008A Mexico City EXCELSIOR STATES SECTION in Spanish 28 Sep 94 pp 1,4

[FBIS Translated Text] Tijuana, Baja California, 27 Sep—This town ranks first on the national scale for marijuana, heroin, and cocaine consumption, while Ciudad Juarez heads the list for inhalants. This was revealed by polls taken in the northern border states by the Health Secretariat's [SSA] System for Epidemiological Surveillance of Addictions (Sivea).

The clinical psychology specialist, Maria Antonieta Olvera, a member of Health Jurisdiction 2, explained that epidemiological research is essential for evaluating consumption patterns, use of new drugs, trends, prevalence, and aspects associated with the use and abuse of toxic substances. She remarked: "This is, therefore, important for understanding situations generated when two economic realities are combined with different development levels, as is the case on the northern border."

She claimed that, in this area, opportunities for economic or social advancement coexist with a poor urban infrastructure and unstable living conditions: an ambivalence that can become fertile ground for drug trafficking and consumption.

The latest poll, taken in Matamoros, Monterrey, Ciudad Juarez, and Tijuana, revealed that the use and abuse of illegal and medical drugs among this region's population far exceeds that in other parts of the country. The source added that Tijuana is the town with the most serious problems caused by consumption of the so-called hard drugs.

She explained that this study included the population between 12 and 65 years of age, divided into two groups: 12-18 years, and 19-65 years.

The overall use of drugs at least once in a lifetime showed a high incidence in towns such as Tijuana, where five out of every 10 persons were reported as consumers. The researcher added that, in Monterrey, the ratio was 2.8; in Ciudad Juarez, three; and in Matamoros, four out of every 10.

As for medical drugs, she reported the highest frequency in Ciudad Juarez, with 17.2 per 100 persons; Matamoros, with 15.8; Tijuana, with 14.8; and Monterrey, with 14.1 per 100 persons.

BMV President Rules Out Capital Flight

PA2910190794 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p 4

[Report by Georgina Howard]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Manuel Robleda, president of the Mexican Securities Exchange [BMV], ruled out the possibility of having a capital flight, because investors have a "very sound" analysis on the country's risk factor.

Some $56 billion worth of foreign capital have been invested at the BMV, highlighting investors' trust, and this reason is why an "overnight" flight of capital is unlikely. He also said the BMV has yielded $730 million, the worlds' highest yield.

Robleda said foreign investments in the financial market had amounted to $80.7 billion by 15 October, 5.5 percent more than by late 1993, $56 billion of which were invested in the stock market and $24.7 billion in the money market.

During a news conference where Robleda estimated that adjusting the securities exchange laws to investigate and avoid money laundering is unnecessary, "because the current laws stipulate that authorities have the power to investigate any tangible case," he said $120 billion could be invested in foreign securities within the next three to four years.

He said the capitalization value of all the stock and securities exchanges in the world amounts to $20 quintillion, 25 percent of which are handled by U.S. exchanges.

He recognized that higher U.S. interest rates have a significant impact not only on the performance by those companies quoting at the exchange but also on all financial markets, and he agreed certain U.S. brokerage houses have tried to speculate in the market as they changed the Telefonos de Mexico grade, and although Merrill Lynch or JP Morgan "can have an impact on the market," they cannot shake it.

"Natural" Speculation

As Robleda answered a question on the large plunge the BMV suffered on 25 October, he said the volatility of the markets is a natural phenomenon. For instance, the French index has dropped up to 20 percent. Despite the distressing events that have occurred this year, he said, the BMV has been strong enough to recover, because investors believe all these adverse factors can be overcome.

The BMV president said later financing traditional assets has become more expensive, and this reason is why companies are compelled to seek other alternatives as capital credits, because it is unadvantageous for them to become indebted by resorting to traditional methods, which are expensive. In addition, he maintained that this situation is added to the U.S. interest rates, which increased from 5.7-8 percent and which affect the profits that highly indebted companies will make.

He recalled that 14 billion new pesos were financed last year through the stock market and that only 5.9 billion new pesos had been financed up to September 1994; liabilities increased from 4 billion to 17.239 billion new pesos, and housing bonds dropped from 10 to 2.2 billion new pesos during the same period.

The BMV official admitted there will be more competition for financial resources in the future due to the scarcity markets will experience, adding that operations abroad grew by 53 percent last year and that the globalization of the securities management will continue.

For investors who decide to place their financial resources in the market, regardless of whether it is efficient and advantageous, there must be economic growth prospects, and the markets must be liquid. Honesty at the markets has a lot to do with operation systems.

He spoke about the BMV strategies to reach international levels of competition. We are trying to further support and help Mexican brokers ensure they will be more competitive to attract more capital to the markets. A fundemental element, he added, is the operations of the SATO [expansion unknown] system, which began operating last year.

Although there was skepticism at the beginning on the SATO system, more aggressive budgets will be submitted in the next few years. The registering of debts in the SATO system will take place during the first half of 1995. Stocks will be negotiated during the first phase and other countries' debts will be valued later. He estimated that $15 million are traded daily on the money market.

Robleda said other basic aspects such as developing new markets, products, and instruments must be encouraged. The goal of the intermediate market, which also started operating last year, is to spot long-term financial investments for midsized companies. There are 12 companies already quoting, and this is a business activity we will continue to support, he said.

Next Evaluation [subhead]

Another important aspect that has been operating since 1992 is the warrants [previous word published in English] or derivatives market, which has 144 companies quoting and which represents 3.5 percent of the operating market. Ninety-one percent of companies still make these products.

We hope the project to evaluate financial instruments for the whole system and brokers will be operating by next year. In addition, we have a system of capitalization available to brokers to give strength and security to the market. He said the options and futures markets must continue to expand, because they allow their quoters to better manage their risks.

In conclusion, Robleda said the International Quotation System project is almost finished as far as operating guidelines are concerned. It is feasible that it will start operating before the current 6-year presidential term ends.

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El Salvador

President Decries California Governor's Attitude

PA2810133394 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 26 Oct 94 p 24

[FBIS Translated Text] President Armando Calderon Sol has decried the attitude taken by Californian Governor Pete Wilson, who is promoting an anti-immigration law, and has said that Wilson is violating the human rights of immigrants.

The president said: "I believe Governor Wilson is violating the human rights of immigrants living in California."

Governor Wilson is promoting a campaign preventing illegal aliens and their children from having access to such basic services as health and education.

This proposal could be approved on 8 November, when elections will be held in this U.S. state, because it would be included on the ballot. California voters must decide if they approve or not of the proposal.

The anti-immigration policy would affect the illegal aliens from any country, including Salvadorans.

It is estimated that slightly less than 100,000 Salvadorans will be affected by this measure, thus affecting the country as well, because they send monthly remittances that contribute to the country's economy.

Calderon Sol regretted that the governor is advocating such a measure and is optimistic that U.S. national organizations will prevent the approval of this law.

"What is happening in California is regrettable; we hope that the U.S. justice system will declare the legislation Wilson is promoting to be invalid." The courts will have to accept amparos and take steps to nullify the regulation about to be implemented.

The Salvadoran president does not expect this resolution will become a reality, thus guaranteeing immigrants access to health and education.

The head of state believes the U.S. Government will do something to prevent the implementation of this policy, saying: "The United States, as a country that believes in freedom and respect for human rights, will decry and reject the attitude taken by Governor Wilson."

A few days ago, a U.S. organization that defends immigrants' interests visited our country to request the support of the Salvadoran Government, which could appeal to the many U.S. Government organizations to extend the stay of Salvadorans in that country. According to the last permit granted, their stay expires on 31 December 1994.

Guatemala

Costa Rica's Figueres Offers To Host Peace Talks

PA3010214794 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1958 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 30 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres offered his colleague, Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio, today to host peace talks in his country between the Guatemalan Government and the guerrillas. This offer from Figueres follows a recent offer from Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol.

The talks between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] have been taking place in Mexican territory up to now. The two sides are scheduled to meet on 4 November to discuss the issue of identity and rights of the Indian population.

Figueres visited Guatemala today to assess bilateral relations with President De Leon. The Costa Rican leader affirmed his support for the peace negotiations during his visit.

The Costa Rican chief of state explained during a press conference at the official presidential residence that he discussed security, the Central American energy situation, and the problems of modernizing Central America's economy.

Before leaving for Honduras, where he will pay a short visit, Figueres agreed with De Leon in rejecting Proposition 187, which is backed by U.S. Senator Pete Wilson [title as received] and seeks to bar immigrants from receiving health and education services in the United States.

The Guatemalan President said those present at the Ecological Summit, which took place in Nicaragua this month, expressed their concerns to U.S. Vice President Al Gore over the Wilson proposal.

"If the proposition passes, we will request that it be declared unconstitutional," De Leon said, adding "we hope President Bill Clinton does not approve the measure."

The chiefs of state also spoke out on the Cuban situation. Figueres said Central America "cannot pressure" the Caribbean island into changing its style. They accepted that Cuba has seen progress despite its political situation in health, education, and housing. They said "human rights violations are the main problem in Cuba."

Army: 'Guerrillas' Resume Attacks Against Bases

PA2910142094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2355 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 26 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Army reported today the guerrillas resumed their attacks against military bases in the country's interior, following the end of another period of peace negotiations that concluded on 24 October.

A communique issued by the Information and Press Department of the Army (DIDE) stated on 26 October the rebels executed several attacks on and ambushes against government troops during the past few hours.

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The report stated the reactivation of the military activity indicates the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] is not that willing to end the 34-year-old armed conflict in this country.

According to the report, one of the latest guerrilla attacks occurred in El Quiche Department yesterday when URNG rebels ambushed a military patrol.

Second Lieutenant Oscar Rojas was killed, and a soldier identified as Miguel Borja was seriously wounded in the shoulder during the action. The report stated Borja was taken to a military hospital in this capital.

DIDE added: "We expect the URNG actions to stop and the guerrillas to display a true will to reach a peace agreement."

Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez warned last week about the possibility of new URNG attacks while the peace process continues. This process is expected to end in December with the signing of a general peace agreement.

The government's Peace Commission (COPAZ) and the URNG General Command completed another round of negotiations on 24 October without reaching any agreements on the discussed topics.

The last period of talks began last week after an almost four-month suspension due to differences between the parties.

Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon has said he hopes peace can be reached in that Central American country before the end of 1994 and thus put an end to an armed conflict that has claimed the lives of almost 175,000 people.

Nicaragua

Chamorro Meets With Canadian Official

PA2910195594 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "News 2000" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro met with a top Canadian official yesterday. Christine Steward, secretary of state for Latin America and Africa of the Foreign Relations and Aid for Development Ministry, conveyed to the president during the meeting her government's willingness to continue providing economic assistance to the Nicaraguan Government. Steward also told Chamorro of the good impression she is taking with her of the changes that have occurred in our country in economic and social areas during the past four years.

Canada will continue providing economic assistance to Nicaragua. Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger said the Canadian Government will continue providing economic assistance to Nicaragua based on three key areas of interests, namely governability, the development of civilian society, and the environment. Kruger said Canada will maintain its annual economic assistance of approximately $12 million, although it has reduced its budget for international assistance.

The Canadian Government has been assisting Nicaragua in the areas of energy, potable water, health projects, and we will provide support to the police and former members of the National Resistance and the Army in the future. [sentence as heard]

In conclusion, Kruger described as positive the visit to our country by Christine Steward, the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] General Administrator (Hale Jean Gustav), and Lucette Michaux-Chevry, deputy secretary of the French foreign ministry.

Four BARRICADA Board Members Resign

PA2910044994 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Report by Erica Ramirez from the "National Newscast"—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] At least four members of BARRICADA's Editorial Council resigned today following the announcement of the decision by the radical faction of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate to dismiss the newspaper's director, Carlos Fernando Chamorro. Chamorro has identified himself with the FSLN Renewal Movement—conduct that is not condoned by the extreme left.

[Chamorro] "I do not renounce my political ideas. I do not have to. These are not things to be bargained with anyone. I believe the real reason is because the newspaper has been unbiased and now they want to make it biased.

[Daniel Ortega] "The issue of the autonomy of BARRICADA is not being questioned. That is being respected. What we are seeking is cohesion—in other words, political unity between the newspaper and the FSLN leadership.

[FSLN Deputy Dora Maria Telles] "When one tries to make a newspaper follow a fixed position, it becomes a comic book in the hands of an uncompromising group and the newspaper is finished. They want to finish off the newspaper. In fact, [words indistinct] Fernando can finish off BARRICADA."

Apparently what is most troubling is that with this decision BARRICADA will be eliminated.

[Chamorro] "It is more than just a settling of accounts with someone. Obviously, I have represented the institution of the newspaper as its director, and I am the main target of this action."

This evening a local radio station reported the possibility of a takeover of the newspaper by BARRICADA workers

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who oppose the dismissal of Carlos Fernando Chamorro. This has been denied by other BARRICADA journalists.

Nevertheless, the extent of the party's rift does not end here. Today the well-know poet Ernesto Cardenal quit the FSLN. Apparently this does not worry the orthodox left wing. Daniel Ortega repeatly shrugged off other members' threats to quit the party.

[Ortega] "One enters the FSLN voluntarily, and one leaves the FSLN voluntarily.

[Telles] "If I were the secretary general of the party, I would be very concerned if people abandoned the FSLN. I think the role of the secretary general is to find ways to add to the party. I believe that a secretary general who says if someone wants to leave, let him leave and that it does not matter who leaves, has a lot to be desired in fulfilling his role."

What is certain is that the much celebrated unity of the FSLM is now history.

'Editorial' on BARRICADA Director's Dismissal

PA2910045094 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Oct 94 pp 1, 5

["Editorial" signed by Lumberto Campbell: "BARRICADA Belongs to the FSLN"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several media sources and other sectors in the country have been discussing the relationship between property, democracy, and freedom of expression over the past few months. We accept the challenge of debating these issues and do so while adhering to our ethics, professionalism, and right to differ.

The first point in this controversy has been the one concerning property. As several analysts have indicated, in a society of classes, only proprietors enjoy political democracy and this includes the proprietors of media sources. It is well known that a few families owned the Nicaraguan media and used them according to their own interests. Consequently, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] proposed the democratization of the media, property, and the economy as a whole.

A newspaper is more or less democratic if it is owned by many or if it represents the interests of a social organization. Therefore, a media source that belongs to a family is less democratic than one that is owned by a group of workers, a political party, or the entire nation.

In BARRICADA's case, the property belongs to the FSLN and is represented by its members, authorities, and delegates: the Sandinist Congress and Assembly.

The second point in this discussion is the legitimacy of the FSLN's current authorities. Representative democracy is not perfect, but currently it is one of the few ways we have to resolve the party's internal conflicts. Another point is that several comrades do not feel they are represented by the FSLN's elected authorities, whether at the Congress or in the Sandinist Assembly—authorities who were voted in through an electoral process in which more than 300,000 Sandinists participated—or by the authorities at the neighborhood, district, municipal, or department levels. Because those comrades do not feel represented in the FSLN, they have decided to establish their own organizational trend. Any comrade can think and act as he deems necessary, but he should conscientiously be faithful to the rules of the game and to the voluntarily accepted commitments. It should be understood that one of those commitments is, first, prior acceptance of the results of the Congress and, second, of the local elections. Likewise, it is understood that if we cannot force a comrade to accept the Sandinist Assembly's representation, it is less likely that we can force the Sandinist Assembly to feel represented by a single comrade; the crisis of confidence is a situation that negatively affects both sides.

A third point in the discussion focuses on the editorial line. We believe that the decision that BARRICADA defend and represent the national interests is legitimate and correct. Moreover, when we talk about national interests, we are referring to, in the first place, the people's interests. In sum, the FSLN has all the right to represent the interests of the people and the country—a claim that is common to any other political party. It is unacceptable to validate such claims for all the political parties except the FSLN.

BARRICADA will defend the FSLN interests within the framework of the interests of the people and the nation. We cannot confuse the need for self-criticism in the FSLN to the shame of furthering flagrant anti-Sandinism.

A fourth point in the discussion has been the autonomy of the director. If by this we were referring to operational autonomy, we would all agree. However, it would be against all norms to propose that, based on this autonomy, a director could deny his commitment to the proper authority or the representation of the newspaper's owners. This sort of autonomy would lead to a legal violation, because it goes against the rules of the game that govern a democracy. In any case, if the director has a right to have autonomy, the Sandinist Assembly has a greater right to this. If a comrade or a group appeals to this autonomy, they cannot attempt to force the Sandinist Assembly to bow to their wishes or whims.

Between congresses, the Sandinist Assembly is sovereign. Its representatives have been democratically elected. In no way do they impose things that do not grow out of their commitments and regulations.

Last, we want to thank Comrade Carlos Fernando Chamorro for his work as head of BARRICADA. We are not moved nor will our decisions be moved by any other goal than the legitimate defense of our own convictions. We respect his convictions, and we expect that he and those who support him will respect ours.

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We will firmly and with deep conviction respect the professional integrity of all of the firm's employees and the BARRICADA journalists in strict adherence to our ethical principles.

This newspaper will continue to exist, even if slander and insults persist and the poisonous wrath of the old lady and the other rightists swamp it. By remaining faithful to the people and our principles, we will face our challenges and advance to produce more and more editions.

AS Intervention in FSLN Division Opposed

PA2910160994 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Oct 94 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Translated Text] To what extent does the intervention of the Sandinist Assembly (AS) heighten the division of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]? Henry Ruiz Hernandez, Dora Maria Tellez, Mirna Cunningham, and Luis Carrion, members of the FSLN National Directorate (DN), have expressed their opposition by the AS intervention of the BARRICADA leadership.

The Sandinist leaders have said in a statement sent to our editorial office these measures are being used by a sector of the FSLN as hardline methods to face the internal problems of the party and to reprimand the director of BARRICADA because he has never allowed the newspaper to be used as an unconditional instrument of the faction dubbed the Democratic Left.

They added they must express their rejection as members of the DN of these measures, which have been implemented since the most recent congress and the most recent internal elections.

They have also expressed their solidarity with Carlos Fernando Chamorro, the journalists, and other BARRICADA workers who have been crushed by the leftist limb of the FSLN.

As a matter of interest, we include the text of the statement hereby:

A sector of the FSLN politically intervened in BARRICADA yesterday. This sector controls most of the leadership structures and has made political intolerance, repression of all types of dissenting opinions, sectarianism, and hardline imposition a style in facing the problems of the Sandinism.

BARRICADA has never been interfered with, because this newspaper was never an unconditional instrument of the faction called Democratic Left; it has never bowed to the faction's dictates, and because it has became a medium that gave access to all national sectors and all Sandinist factions.

The policy used with BARRICADA is the same one that was used before the congress and most recently, since the internal elections of the FSLN. Harassment and slander have been wielded as weapons against any Sandinist who criticizes authoritarianism and hardline policies; the use of the party's resources to challenge other Sandinists; or the use of the Sandinist media as private means of the leaders of the Democratic Left.

As members of the DN of the FSLN, we must state our strongest rejection of the intervention of BARRICADA and the policy being used by leadership bodies, which continues to seriously harm the unity of the FSLN.

We express our warm solidarity to Carlos Fernando Chamorro, the journalists, and other BARRICADA workers whose human and professional dignity have been crushed. The new critics of the attempt to create a new type of journalism—one that is truly critical and preoccupied with the problems of the country and works under the conviction that such problems are the leading concern of Sandinism—have lost face before the nation.

[Dated] Managua 26 October 1994

[Signed] Henry Ruiz Hernandez, Dora Maria Tellez, Mirna Cunningham, Luis Carrion

Radio Sandino Cancels 'Events' Newscast

PA2910193594 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] The "political earthquake" provoked by orthodox members of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] has continued to wreak havoc among Sandinist media. The new "victim" was the canceled Radio Sandino "Events" newscast, in which journalist Jose Esteban Quezada Gamero had served as director for the past 20 years.

The editorial staffs of other media were caught by surprise last night by the decision by the leadership of the radio station to cancel one of the oldest newscasts on the hertzian frequencies.

An Unexpected "Restructuring"

The cancellation of the "Events" newscast will affect 15 individuals, including journalists, correspondents, administrative personnel, and technicians. This decision was disguised as a "restructuring."

The order issued by those who decided to remove any journalist obstructing the plans of the so-called orthodox democratic left was "brought down" to Radio Sandino Director Conrado Pineda Aguilar, who had no other choice than to order his secretary to draft the notice and sign it.

The notice read: I hereby advise you that the "Events" radio newscast will be off the air beginning 27 October due to Radio Sandino reprogramming.

Jose Esteban's Opinion

EL NUEVO DIARIO consulted "Events" Newscast Director Jose Esteban Quezada last night. He described

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the measure as "sudden, authoritarian, and similar to the one adopted against BARRICADA." This newscast had been on Radio Sandino from 1100 GMT to 1200 GMT since 1990. "The so-called orthodox members of the FSLN will not kill the 'Events' newscast, because it is highly esteemed among the local media," Quezada added. The director said he does not know which radio station will now broadcast the newscast, which has been on the air for the past 21 years on different radio stations of the country.

The "Events" newscast has always been on the air in the morning, and its political reports have always presented both sides of an issue. Bayardo Arce, chairman of the Radio Sandino Board of Directors, recently called the newscast to discuss the situation facing the Sandinist Party, and Station Director Jose Esteban Quezada gave Arce all the air time he wanted.

We also heard on that newscast when Deputy Julio Marenco, of the FSLN Renovating current, announced his withdrawal from the FSLN. Marenco was allowed to talk as much as he wanted to.

Who is Next?

The letter from the Radio Sandino director hit other newscasts that are broadcast daily via this FSLN radio station like a ton of bricks.

Panama

'Obvious Tension' Noted at U.S.-Run Cuban Camps

PA3010002994 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2312 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Panama City, 29 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The visit of major league baseball player Jose Canseco, of Cuban origin, to the "rafters" camps in Panama was overshadowed today by obvious tension between several hundred refugees and U.S. soldiers. The rafters insulted and blamed U.S. soldiers for their lack of freedom.

The baseball player, who said very little at a news conference held at the U.S. information center for "Operation Safe Haven," the name given to the operation to transfer Cubans to Panama, admitted that Cubans in the camps were experiencing "desperation" to gain freedom.

During a batting workshop at one of the camps, Canseco had to put up with groups of organized Cubans who held up posters in front of television cameras with messages to the Clinton administration, urging the administration to grant them asylum in the United States.

Some of the messages read: "The chains have not been broken; we continue without freedom," and "Learn Spanish, Clinton: Safe Haven Means Prison."

The Cubans have begun reporting "mistreatment" by U.S. soldiers, and they even surrounded a bus in which journalists were riding, climbed up to the windows, shouted that they felt imprisoned, and threatened to "jump the fence" if their situation is not resolved within a couple of days. [passage omitted]

One Escaped Cuban Rafter Remains at Large

PA2910154794 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Oct 94 p A-1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Cuban rafter remains at large after two rafters surrendered and more than 18 were apprehended in the jungles of the banks of the Canal during an operation in which 300 U.S. soldiers participated. The rafters have insisted, however, they will escape again if they are not granted visas to travel to the United States.

Twenty-one rafters escaped from Camp No. 3 on 27 October after threatening to do so one day earlier if the Clinton administration does not grant them visas to travel to the United States. [passage omitted]

The last two rafters were detained on 28 October at 1300 as part of the combing operation launched by unarmed U.S. soldiers.

The rafters were spotted at a distance of between one and a half and four miles from the camps.

It was reported that General Jim Wilson, Joint Task Force commander, will hear from each of the escapees to determine whether they are sanctioned, but LA PRENSA has learned that the ones who escape are punished with 150 days of arrest and those who attempt to escape with 122 days according to camp regulations.

Eight rafters who were on a hunger strike in Camp No. 3 on 27 October called it off, but another eight rafters began a hunger strike in Camp No. 1 to demand visas from the United States.

According to official sources, 8,674 Cubans are in Panama in the camps set up along the banks of the Canal. [passage omitted]

Security measures in Camp No. 3 were intensified, and it is not yet known whether the soldiers who guarded the camp will be punished.

Those who were recaptured "have been separated from the rest of the group" and will undergo a hearing, it was reported. There is a camp that serves as a prison for those who commit offenses, and there are more than 50 rafters in there.

LA PRENSA visited yesterday Camp No. 4, where the rafters reiterated their dissatisfaction because the United States does not grant them visas, and they also warned they will escape if they are informed they must return to Cuba within six months.

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The agreement the United States has signed with Panama establishes that 10,000 Cubans will be housed in camps along the banks of the Canal under the responsibility of the U.S. Southern Command.

Official: Rafter Situation Ready To 'Explode'

PA3010172694 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Oct 94 p 1A

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque warned yesterday that sooner or later the Cuban rafters situation will explode because they want to go to Miami, and that possibility is restricted. Duque was referring to the recent tense situation in the Cuban refugee camps built by U.S. authorities along the Panama Canal. Some 23 Cuban rafters escaped from the refugee camps to reject the "very restricted" manner in which they live at the shelters.

Although U.S. authorities have captured almost all the escapees, disenchantment among the Cuban refugees continues to grow, and some have even threatened to go on a hunger strike to protest the U.S. refusal to let them enter that country.

The first vice president said: "The situation is difficult because they (the rafters) probably thought they were going to be able to move around, and that is not the case. Sooner or later, this situation will explode because they want to go to Miami, and that possibility is restricted. It will depend on the time they remain in the camps; it will tell us how patient they are."

Altamirano said that if the rafters are not transferred expeditiously, there will be other mass escapes, hunger strikes, "and similar actions, because there is always a group of 15, 20, or 30 desperate Cubans who will resort to these tactics to pressure the U.S. Government."

Meanwhile, Foreign Relations Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo emphasized that the situation in the rafters camps concerns the United States only.

He also commented on former Haitian dictator Raoul Cedras, saying that he does not know where he is because the Foreign Ministry is not handling this issue.

Haiti's Cedras Leaves Hotel for Undisclosed Place

PA2910140294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0113 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Panama City, 28 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Haitian coupist General Raoul Cedras today left the hotel where he had been living with his family and Lieutenant [as published] Philippe Biamby since arriving in Panama on 13 October for a residence the location of which has not been revealed.

Sources close to the general have told ACAN-EFE that Cedras, who received asylum in Panama, discreetly left Riande Hotel, located near Tocumen International Airport, this afternoon.

Although the Haitian general's change of residence was not officially reported and though the authorities do not wish to reveal his new home, government sources have told ACAN-EFE Cedras and his wife will live somewhere in Panama.

The protection the government had offered him since he arrived has been removed, also, and Cedras has hired protection from a private security agency according to an official source.

Cedras is in Panama with his wife Yannick, his children, his former chief of staff, Biamby, and the latter's mother, the only individuals to whom the Panamanian Government granted asylum.

According to the local press, Cedras has been looking for a home in Panama City during the past week, although the exact area has not been revealed, and a school so his children can continue their education.

He went to the National Immigration Directorate of the Government and Justice Ministry last week to make arrangements for living in Panama for one year.

The immigration authorities have reported Cedras can stay in Panama as long as he wishes, providing he meets the requirements of his refugee status.

Cedras' arrival in Panama, a destination for which he himself asked, made President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti on 15 October to restore democracy possible.

Cedras' presence in Panama has elicited the protests of parties and other groups. Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo had to appear before the Legislative Assembly to affirm "there was no hidden pact with the United States" regarding asylum for Cedras.

Lewis Galindo has said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the OAS negotiated with Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares to accept Cedras and to help resolve Haiti's crisis.

Perez Balladares had also announced before U.S. troops arrived in Haiti last month his willingness to accept the Haitian general if this decision prevented an invasion of Haiti.

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Argentina

Menem Message Aired Over Israeli Television

PY2810184794 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] President Carlos Menem recorded a message that was broadcast over Israeli state television within the framework of a special program prepared in conjunction with the signing of the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan.

The Argentine president was one of four heads of state who were invited to offer their greetings and their thoughts regarding that event. The other heads of state were: Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Boris Yeltsin of Russia, and a European president.

In his remarks, which lasted for 75 seconds, Menem highlighted the fact that "the Argentine people have always loved peace," and this is why "it has sent troops to various parts of the world to maintain that peace."

The president stressed that "we Argentines are vividly celebrating the agreements" that have been achieved "in such a conflictive zone as the Middle East," and he conveyed "the congratulations and the appreciation of the Argentine people for this attitude, which must be an example for many parts of the world."

The request for a message from the Argentine president came from the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which managed and coordinated, with Argentine Media Secretary Guillermo Seita, the video that was transmitted via satellite to that country, to be included in the program scheduled for broadcast after the signing of the agreements.

The Foreign Ministry disseminated a press communique in which it expresses the "profound satisfaction" of the Argentine Government regarding the peace accords that were signed between Jordan and Israel.

The communique highlights "the courage and determination of the Arab and Israeli leaders."

Menem Views Military Promotions, Polls, Chile

PY2810230194 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0208 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem today noted that the Justicialist Party [PJ] bloc's rejection of the promotions of seamen Antonio Pernias and Juan Carlos Rolon represents a fait accompli. He stressed that while he does not share this judgment, he respects it.

At an unscheduled news conference, Menem tonight noted: "As far as the national executive branch is concerned, judgment has already been passed on the war against subversion."

Menem pointed out to the journalists accredited to Government House that in the future the government will review the records of military officers before proposing their promotion.

Menem announced that as of today "all the proposals for promotion of military officers from the entire Armed Forces will go through a similar unprecedented process. It will be the first time this process is carried out in Congress."

Menem also announced that 300,000 houses per year will be built as of 1995 to reduce the current deficit of "4 million houses." He explained that the public administration Christmas bonus will not be paid in installments.

Menem also pointed out that "the only beneficiaries of the lawsuits" against the retirement system are those who collect the highest wages and would collect between 7,000 and 8,000 pesos, those collecting retroactive payments, and attorneys collecting their fees.

Asked about the decision made by the PJ bloc in the Senate, Menem said: "I had believed that our pacification process was over, but this reopens the wounds in the body of our Republic. I hope they heal quickly."

After pointing out that he had received this decision "very calmly," Menem said he would not raise "any kind of challenge." Concerning the situation of Navy Chief of Staff Molina Pico, Menem said: "There are no problems of any kind."

After asking himself about the involvement of the Navy chief of staff in this situation, Menem noted that even though the Navy chief of staff had not authorized him to disclose it, "a sister-in-law of Molina Pico disappeared from the Naval Mechanics School."

Menem noted that "if we revive the past, we Argentines will never have the peace we really want and for which we struggled." He nevertheless believes Argentine society "is reconciled." [passage omitted]

Concerning the formation of a club of governors who disagree with some of his government's economic policies, Menem pointed out: "They have a right to meet as many times as they want."

Menem added: "The national government will be uncompromising in demanding compliance with the agreements signed by the provinces."

Menem emphasized: "We can talk, agree, or disagree; this is right in democracy, but commitments must be respected."

Menem explained: "The deficit involves retirement, and not the fiscal area." He said: "The deficit is being compensated for by a global surplus in the fiscal area."

Concerning the deficit in the retirement area, the president pointed out: "It has been caused by a series of

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judgments passed in the courts, and removing retirement ceilings tends to favor those who have a ceiling and cannot collect more."

Menem pointed out: "Privileged retirees, those who will collect and use the funds of those who are not as well benefited by the retirements and pensions system, will be favored."

Even though he refused to specify the number of privileged retirees, Menem noted: "There are thousands." He pointed out that those collecting the highest retirement payments, those collecting retroactively, and the attorneys collecting a percentage of these payments are those benefiting from the judgments. [passage omitted]

Concerning his scheduled visit to Syria, President Menem noted that "the conditions have always been good" and that the peace accord signed yesterday between Israel and Jordan "was spectacular" because "it was achieved in a very conflictive area."

Menem said the polls conducted in our country indicate that the electoral prospects for his reelection "now fare well." Asked about his misdemeanor suit against [Grand Front leader] Carlos Alvarez, Menem preferred to leave it to the courts.

Menem complained: "As never before, all the media are attacking the president of the Republic with insults and offenses." He added that in the future he will take an attitude of "making no remarks and turning to the courts."

Concerning the last unresolved conflict with Chile over the Continental Glaciers area, Menem confirmed the remarks made by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, who announced the possibility of subjecting it to an arbitration court. Menem nevertheless noted that a future decision on this issue would depend on the congressmen from the two countries, who will have to ratify an agreement signed between the governments of Argentina and Chile.

The president announced that 300,000 houses per year will be built as of 1995 to reduce the current housing deficit, which he estimated at 4 million houses.

Concerning the possibility of running for another presidential term, Menem humorously said: "If I am up to it, I will run in 2003."

Congress Decision on Glaciers To Be Respected

PY2810124894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0034 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mendoza, 27 Oct (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today agreed with his Chilean counterpart, Jose Miguel Insulza, in emphasizing that the two countries will abide by the decision that the congresses from the two nations will make on the Continental Glaciers border conflict.

Di Tella confirmed that the Argentine Government does not plan to request any type of international arbitration to mediate in the Continental Glaciers problem despite the fact that this possibility has been included in the Peace and Friendship Treaty signed between the two countries.

Insulza emphasized that his country is awaiting the Chilean Congress' decision on the conflict. He nevertheless announced that his government will also not request the mediation of an arbitration court.

Following the announcement of the award of the arbitration court, favoring Argentina, the foreign ministers emphasized that the Laguna del Desierto border conflict "is over."

Insulza preferred not to voice any opinion on the decision of the arbitration court awarding Laguna del Desierto to Argentina, but emphasized that his country accepts the decision.

Asked about the repercussions of this award in his country, Insulza emphasized that the atmosphere in his country "is perfectly calm." He added: "No one is in danger in Chile at this moment."

"We also do not have any reports of Argentines facing any type of inconveniences" after the announcement of the arbitration court's award, the Chilean minister emphasized.

The two foreign ministers met at the Plaza Hotel in Mendoza, where they discussed various issues linked to the bilateral relations between the two nations.

The two foreign ministers stated that the meeting was not linked to the Laguna del Desierto award that was announced a few days ago because it had been agreed upon earlier.

The foreign ministers of the two nations were joined by Chilean Ambassador to Argentina Eduardo Rodriguez Guarachi and Argentine Ambassador to Chile Eduardo Iglesias, among other officials from the two nations.

The issues discussed during the meeting included trade and investment prospects, energy cooperation between the two nations, and the possibility of constructing a low-span tunnel to link the two countries through Mendoza Province.

In the evening, the two foreign ministers had dinner at the house of Mendoza Governor Rodolfo Gabrieli.

The two foreign ministers will meet with President Carlos Menem at 1015 on 28 October, before a scheduled cabinet meeting.

'Cordial' Meeting With UK Defense Officials Noted

PY2810185994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 27 Oct (AFP-NA)—A joint communique released here on 27 October states

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that British and Argentine defense officials met in London on 26 October to discuss military contacts between the two countries, particularly in peace keeping operations.

This meeting is the second of its kind. The communique states that the meeting was held "in a cordial and constructive atmosphere." Foreign affairs representatives from the two countries also attended the meeting.

The officials participating in the meeting said they were "satisfied." The communique says they established a program of measures to increase military contacts between the two countries.

The officials decided that a British military delegation will travel to Argentina during the first quarter of 1995 to exchange information on UN peace keeping missions.

They also discussed regional security measures and the specific training needed for peace keeping operations.

A new meeting will take place in Buenos Aires in a year to review the progress made.

Argentine Brigadier General Domingo Villar, a Malvinas war veteran, is scheduled to fly a British combat plane on 27 October at the Cottesmore base, in central Britain, at the special invitation of the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Senate President on Jurisdiction in French Nuns' Case

PY2810204594 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1510 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (TELAM)—Provisional Senate President Eduardo Menem today reaffirmed the Argentine court jurisdiction in the case involving the killing of French nuns Alice Domon and Leonie Duquet.

The legislator told Radio El Mundo: "The killings were committed in the Argentine Republic, and I have no doubt that our courts have sole jurisdiction in this case."

Senator Menem disagreed with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who pointed out during his recent visit to our country that French courts might become involved in the case.

He emphasized: "Argentine courts have sole jurisdiction to hear, judge, punish, or acquit people involved in incidents that occur in our national territory."

Menem stressed: "It is clear to me that incidents occurring in a given country must be judged by this country's courts alone."

The La Rioja senator stressed that the Justicialist Party, PJ, bloc decision to disapprove of the promotion of Frigate Captains Antonio Pernias and Juan Carlos Rolon does not prevent the government "from sending reports" to other countries "whenever judicially appropriate."

The senator emphasized "the decision-making power of senators" on executive branch proposals.

Concerning the decision to disapprove the promotion of Rolon and Pernias, Menem admitted that "there were diverse opinions" among PJ bloc members on the proposals that were submitted in November 1993.

He stressed: "After a vote, those who disagree must accept the decision of the majority. It was resolved democratically."

The French foreign minister said his country might reopen the case because "it is impossible to forget this specific case of these nuns who were tortured and killed under horrendous conditions."

Army Chief Hails Pinochet's 'Professionalism'

PY2810160394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1408 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (EFE)—General Martin Balza, the Argentine Army chief of staff, hailed the "nobleness and professionalism" of his Chilean counterpart, Augusto Pinochet, with regard to the way in which he received the arbitration court's award that secured Argentina's sovereignty over the frozen and bleak Laguna del Desierto plateau.

In remarks published today by the Buenos Aires newspapers, Balza stresses: "I am a military officer, and I know how a military officer must feel after an adverse decision in the diplomatic field."

A court, made up of five Latin American jurists, on 21 October ruled that Argentina has sovereignty over the 530-sq km Laguna del Desierto area, which was under dispute with Chile.

The Chilean Government officials accepted with resignation the court's award, which is unappealable, and Pinochet accepted the decision made by the political leaders.

Balza added that the diplomatic accords signed to resolve various conflicts over the nearly 5,000-km border between the two countries "have dispelled the possibilities of contention with our Chilean brothers."

Argentina and Chile nearly waged a war during the 1978 Christmas season over sovereignty over the Picton, Lennox, and Nueva Islands in the Beagle Channel.

Bolivia

Government Proposal to Paris Club Outlined

PY3110115094 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 23 Oct 94 pp A1-A2

[FBIS Translated Text] Political and diplomatic sources in this capital revealed yesterday that the Bolivian Government will ask the Paris Consultative Group for $200

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million in financial aid to consolidate, execute, and promote a "new and aggressive" alternative development strategy for the next five years in the tropical area of Cochabamba.

While the need for a "summit" meeting with the opposition, as proposed by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, remains, the government believes it is necessary to discuss the subject on a real basis at the international level.

The Bolivian proposal, which will be fully explained to the international community by National Social Defense Secretary Mario Soliz on 2-4 November in France, states that "Bolivia has acknowledged the need to draft a new development strategy for Cochabamba, designed to review the development concepts, the approach, and the activities in the region."

The proposal points out that the "initial assessment of the problem has confirmed that the purpose of creating an economic and social base in Chapare may allow the drafting of an overall development plan in the zones where coca is produced."

The document, drafted after months of research and specific evaluation periods of what had been done over the past seven years in the alternative development field, states that the strategy to be proposed is based namely on the following facts:

"The lack of an organized social structure, and the lack of participation by the public and by the social and economic protagonists who will guarantee that the development projects and process are sustainable.

"The public's lack of motivation due to their meager participation in the development projects and measures, and the lack of or deficiency in the legal, institutional, and planning structures.

"The lack of clear development policies and strategies, and an overall state absence over the past six years.

"The temporary approach in the implementation of short-term programs and projects subordinated to the laws controlling coca leaf production.

"The lack of a coherent plan that will allow for coordinated actions and investments in key development sectors with a synergetic, multiplying, and sustainable impact."

In this sense the government admitted that "the alternative development strategy implemented more than five years ago has not consolidated the necessary social, legal, institutional, economic, and planning structures for the overall and sustainable development of a determined region."

The explanation to be given by Bolivian authorities to the international community states that "it is precisely the development problems caused by the democratic, economic, and ecological difficulties of the region that reveal that the development of the tropical region can only be solved in the long term."

Development Strategy

With the new policy designed for the struggle against drug trafficking, prevention, and alternative development, the government pointed out the need to conceive of the new development strategy for the Chapare tropical region "for the long term, and with a firm grounding in social, institutional, legal, and economic terms."

The Bolivian proposal, based on the proposed objectives and social diagnosis made, considers it necessary to adopt "immediate measures" to attain the objectives of the strategy to be taken in the short, medium, and long term.

Most Important Strategies

1. Organize a social structure as a necessary requirement for greater participation by the public and by sectorial representatives in the region's development.

This will be possible if two basic conditions are promoted—that the inhabitants of the tropical region become engaged in its development, and that the private, business, and organized sectors be willing to intervene in the Chapare region.

2. Create institutional coordination mechanisms and tools that will allow the execution of coordinated and organized actions in the various sectors. Promote the creation of legal and institutional structures capable of starting sustainable development and of safeguarding property and the state's presence and participation in the development of the tropical region.

3. Create the planning structures, such as: a plan for the use of land; a plan for territorial organization, and municipal and rural property registry; and an information center and easily accessible systemized database.

4. Strongly support the municipal districts as future executors and key interlocutors in political, administrative, economic, and social development, as established in the Popular Participation Law.

Sectorial Strategies

The sectorial strategies are designed to explain the "reason" for the execution of the comprehensive strategies of the new and integral alternative development policy in Chapare.

In this sense the government proposes creating the structures to promote agricultural and livestock development in the region, through the execution of actions for the adequate use of resources and sustainable development in the tropical zone.

The government proposes establishing conditions for attaining the industrial development of Chapare (agroindustry, industry, handicraft, and tourism); and creating mechanism structures that promote activities

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related to the trade in agricultural products with the strengthening of organizational and entrepreneurial structures.

The government proposes establishing financing levels that will allow the development of economic activities in the region to substitute for the coca economy and, lastly, carry out actions designed to slow down the speedy deterioration of the environment and the adequate use of natural resources.

Short and Medium-Term Measures

The government proposal in "its master plan for the development of the tropical region of Chapare" proposes the following short and medium-term measures to be executed if the drafted strategy is approved.

Create and strengthen the forums and organizations that allow the economic and social actors to coordinate and promote their sectorial interests and act as the main protagonists in the development process.

Draft and implement priority projects to strengthen the municipal districts, and draft a territorial reorganization plan, including a plan for the use of land as an essential requirement for any planning activity.

Create, as soon as possible, a municipal and rural property registry (register the zone that is currently colonized, and update the title deeds based on the property registry); hire the services of a legal-economic consultant to assess the laws currently in force and their deficiencies; and propose complementary measures and modifications that affect the development of the tropical region.

In this regard the approval of the Colonization Law, the Property Law, the Land Reform Law, and the Forestry Law is proposed.

Promote the mechanisms for the participation of those who will benefit from the drafting and execution of projects; and draft a project for the implementation of a monetary unit for investment and trade between private businessmen and development agencies.

Negotiate preferential energy tariffs for the energy used for productive purposes; and support the Development Plan for the Tropical Region through financial international organizations.

Sanjines Denies Military Role in Garcia Meza's Coup

PY2810172394 La Paz HOY in Spanish 21 Oct 94 pp 8-9

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After 12 years of silence and having been the target of a series of charges, the Armed Forces yesterday explained that they did not participate in the 17 July 1980 coup d'etat staged by former dictator Luis Garcia Meza Tejada, who ruled until 1982 with the concealed support of a large group of politicians.

After the former dictator's extradition to Bolivia was decided, current Armed Forces Commander General Fernando Sanjines Yanez told HOY that "at that time Gen Garcia Meza, and not the Armed Forces, governed the country."

A day after the Brazilian Federal Court decided to extradite Garcia Meza, Gen Sanjinez said that the Armed Forces must not be mistaken for the former dictator, although 12 years have elapsed since then.

Sanjines said: "One must distinguish between what happened to Gen. Garcia Meza and the military institution; I believe we must not mistake one thing for another. The institution respects the Constitution."

In Sanjines' opinion, the Armed Forces, as an institution, did not become involved in the civilian-military movement that was upheld by several politicians who were not included in the trial against the government of the former de facto president.

Sanjines denied that there are some military officers who support Garcia Meza and asserted that the officers, particularly the current ones, respect the state of law and contribute to consolidating democracy.

He added: "The people know that the Armed Forces respect the democratic institutions and that they safeguard the fulfillment of the law. Our image is clear."

Sanjines then said that "the existence of any Garcia Meza supporters must be ruled out. Many—too many—years have gone by. In Garcia Meza's time, the members of the current military command held the rank of mayor, lieutenant colonel, and colonel. [passage omitted]

'Political Pressure' Prompts Revenue Director's Resignation

PY2810183594 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 20 Oct 94 p B2

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Maria Luisa Urday resigned as director general of the Revenue Office, allegedly due to personal reasons and political pressure (excerted by the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement]), the government party to which she says she does not belong, which means a virtual politization of the public enterprises.

When asked about the reasons why she suddenly decided to resign, Urday said: "Political pressure always exists, but I think the main reason is something that is quite obvious."

As she reiterated that she does not belong to the MNR, Urday added: "I believe the Revenue Office directorate is a political post."

Urday's resignation was made public at 1000 yesterday, and half an hour later, Filiberto Ugalde Torrez, militant

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of the MNR who was AADAA [Autonomous Assocation of Customs Warehouses] director, was sworn in as Revenue Office director.

With these changes the government has allegedly started the "politization" of the public posts, as was announced by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada on 10 October when, in an address to party members, he said: "We are not going to allow the party to be excluded from the government, from the process it has created."

On that occasion, when he harshly attacked the Patriotic Accord government, he also suggested that there are militants of the previous government in (key posts) of the state apparatus who have lately been obstructing the reforms.

During the previous administration, Maria Luisa Urday acted as a political activist in the former Planning and Coordination Ministry, according to a list the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] disclosed in Congress.

Sanchez: Second Part of 'Plan for All' Being Prepared

PY2810185694 La Paz HOY in Spanish 24 Oct 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada reported yesterday that his party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], is already preparing the second part of the so-called "Plan for All" for the 1997 elections.

During an interview granted to a television station, the president admitted that the government program is still experiencing some setbacks, which they will try to overcome with the second plan, to be implemented during the next government period.

He explained, however, that his intention is not to continue in power, and rejected opposition criticisms about the MNR's supposed hegemonistic ideas.

Stressing the fact that the government of former President Jaime Paz Zamora had great achievements, despite the errors, "it will be the next president, who will surely be better than I, who will be in charge of continuing with this task, as happened to me with the previous administration."

"We are implementing this project, which is the Plan for All, but we are going to prepare it further for the next elections; we are already mobilizing the apparatus," the president said, revealing that this is a long-term MNR project.

Concerning the executive branch reforms, which were implemented a few weeks after he assumed the presidency of the Republic, he admitted that there were some setbacks in this initiative, but added that they will be amended with new measures that will be submitted to congress soon for consideration.

"People often criticize the executive branch organization, but it is a step we had to take. Perhaps it did not work well and we will have to make some adjustments; I am going to send congress some adjustments.... The best organization does not work unless it has good men, and the best men are of no use if they do not have a good organization," he said.

Sanchez de Lozada admitted that another error of his short administration was that of not giving greater participation to the Bolivian private enterprises in the capitalization process, but explained that "the businessmen's problem is to convince themselves that changes will occur." They have doubts, as do many other Bolivians, but the changes will take place," he said.

Concerning the Plan for All project which is being implemented, he said that personally he could not guarantee its success, although he explained that everything has been done with good faith.

Moreover, the Bolivian president said that all his works will be linked to the implementation of measures intended to meet the true needs of the Bolivian people, because "the executive governments have led this country to chaos."

He said that he will personally guarantee the implementation of the main projects included in the Plan for All, but added that he could not guarantee a total success.

He also stressed the Bolivian strategic position for its future development.

He said, for instance, that there are great possibilities for exporting electricity to neighboring countries.

The president said that "there are thermoelectric plants that can meet Bolivia's total consumption needs, but what is of interest here is that they are established at an altitude of 4,000 meters in the Andean mountains, from where water runs toward the sea, making possible exports to southern Peru, northern Chile, Argentina, and Brazil."

Brazil

President-Elect Cancels Trips to Europe, U.S.

PY2910014294 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1727 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague, 28 Oct (AE)—After spending 14 days touring Eastern Europe, Fernando Henrique Cardoso has decided to redefine his agenda and remain more in Brazil until his inauguration day on 1 January. Cardoso has thus decided to cancel his trips to Europe, the United States, and Japan, which had been scheduled for November. "Presidents-elect traditionally do make these trips, but there are many things to be decided here in Brazil," he explained. He added: "I think it would be more advantageous to leave the trips for later."

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He did not, however, change his mind about visiting the Common Market of the South [Mercosur] countries—Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay—next week. Although he is interested in expanding relations with the large financial centers as well as with the centers of technology development, Cardoso wants to make it very clear that Brazilian foreign policy "is very firm about the importance of Mercosur."

The president-elect's participation in the Americas Summit—to be held in Miami, the United States, from 9 to 11 December—has not been decided. The summit of Latin American presidents was summoned by U.S. President Bill Clinton. During a meeting to be held on 1 November in Brasilia, President Itamar Franco and Cardoso will choose those who will make up the Brazilian delegation to the meeting. Cardoso said: "I will probably not attend the meeting, unless President Franco uses some argument I am still unaware of in order to convince me."

A short while before leaving for Sao Paulo via Zurich, the president-elect said: "I will redefine my agenda and take better care of Brazilian interests. I have rested a lot, and now have a great many things to do." Before beginning to work at Alvorada Palace, which will be the headquarters for the transition government, Cardoso plans to hold several meetings to discuss the future administration.

States on Venezuelan Border Seek Integration

PY2810185494 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2133 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Boa Vista, 25 Oct (AE)—Goods produced in Amazonas and Roraima States in Brazil, and Bolivar State in Venezuela will pay no custom tariffs when traded in these three states. Brazilian and Venezuelan representatives made this decision during a meeting in Boa Vista. The meeting is one of several held over recent years, seeking a free trade agreement in the region. This agreement has been called the "Embryo Merconorte" [Common Market of the North].

Henrique Brandao Cavalcante, Brazilian minister of the environment and the Amazon Legal Region; Ronaldo Campos, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry official in charge of this region; Roberto Perez Lacuna, president of the Venezuelan National Border Council; Roy Chanderton, Venezuelan environment minister; Luis Javier Crisanti, Venezuelan foreign minister, and General Castor Ribas, Venezuelan defense minister, attended the meeting.

Roraima Governor Ottomar de Souza Pinto explained that the objective is to develop Roraima's border with Venezuela taking into account cultural, educational, sports, scientific, and technological aspects, with a view to the economic integration of Roraima and Bolivar States, which are currently isolated and share similar aspirations.

It was announced at the meeting that Brazilian President Itamar Franco and his Venezuelan counterpart Rafael Caldera will meet in Boa Vista, probably in December. They will ratify the decisions made so far, leading to a new bilateral trade policy that will begin in 1995.

Franco Approves Extradition Request for Garcia Meza

PY2810145994 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Itamar Franco has issued a resolution nominating former Justice Minister Mauricio Correa as Federal Supreme Court member, replacing Paulo Brossard.

The president also approved a Bolivian Government request for extradition of former Bolivian President Luis Garcia Meza. The Bolivian Government asked the Brazilian Government to deport Garcia Meza irrespective of the conclusion of the trial that Garcia Meza is facing before Brazilian courts.

PT Position in State Election Runoffs Examined

PY2910023294 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Oct 94 p A6

[From the "Estadao Column" by interim columnist Ana Maria Tahan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PT [Workers Party] has gotten lost in its own idiosyncrasies. To realize that, it is enough to observe the conclusions reached by the PT municipal board meetings held over the weekend in states where there will be gubernatorial runoff elections.

The PT has postponed until the beginning of November the decision on whether to support Antonio Mariz (PMDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] or launch its own candidate in Paraiba State. In the first round of the elections the PT was also divided between these two possibilities. In Para State, squeezed between Jarbas Passarinho (PPR) [Progressive Renewal Party] and Almir Gabriel (PSDB) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], the PT did not support either of the two. In the states of Minas Gerais and Santa Catarina, the PT decided to give "critical support" to Eduardo Azeredo (PSDB) and Paulo Afonso (PMDB), without participating in electoral rallies. In Rondonia State, it allied with the National Order Redefinition Party and the Liberal Front Party to defend Waldir Raupp (PMDB).

In the states where PT candidates are running for governor, ideological differences disappeared. We only need remember Olivio Dutra's diligence in obtaining PPR support in Rio Grande do Sul. Also forgotten was the proposal to not only support other parties' candidates, but even participate in their administrations if these candidates are elected.

At the PT meeting held in Sao Paulo on 23 October, Sao Paulo PT Deputy Jose Dirceu said that the party must

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clearly show whether it wants democratic respect. Decisions must be made, but without becoming sectarian.

This position, however, was not successful in the states. In most cases, this "critical support" has left the party's position very undefined and made it very similar to the PSDB in its indecisiveness.

Senate Approves Privatization Auction for Embraer

PY2910012794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2205 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 26 Oct (AE)—The federal government can now sell shares in Embraer, the Brazilian Aeronautics Company. The Federal Senate today approved the sale of Embraer shares. The National Privatization Program [PND] committee of directors may schedule the privatization auction within 30 days from now. The minimum price for the Embraer sale was established at 175 million reals [R].

The Embraer bidding was approved in the Senate with two amendments proposed by Senator Eduardo Suplicy (Workers Party, Sao Paulo). In the first amendment, the senator seeks to guarantee the jobs of current Embraer employees for at least six months after its sale. The second amendment allows the employees to elect a representative and alternate for the Administrative Council of Embraer.

In the bidding document the PND committee of directors established that the minimum price for all Embraer shares is R295 million. Not all shares, however, will be sold. This is why the minimum price for the privatization auction was established at R175 million. A block of shares equivalent to 10 percent of the voting capital will be offered to the employees. According to the committee of directors, the PND's objective is to encourage employees to participate in the Embraer privatization process.

Status of Privatization Program Viewed

PY2810172294 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1904 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sao Paulo, 25 Oct (AE)—According to a BNDS [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] report, the following is the status of state-run companies included in the National Privatization Program (PND):

Cosinor [Northeastern Iron and Steel Company]	(sold)
Piratini	(sold)
CST [Tubarao Iron and Steel Company]	(sold)
Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Company]	(sold)
Usimec	(transferred to Usiminas)
Mafersa	(sold)
Copesul [Southern Petrochemical Company]	(sold)
ICC [Santa Catarina Coal Chemistry Industry, Inc.]	(being liquidated)
Goiasfertil	(sold)
Caraiba	(sold)
Nitrofertil	(excluded)
Fosfertil	(sold)
Ultrafertil	(sold)
Petrofertil [Petrobras Fertilizer Company]	(excluded)
Enasa [Amazon Shipping Company, Inc.]	(process interrupted)
SNPB	(sold)
Franave	(process interrupted)
Celma	(sold)
Petroflex	(sold)
Alcalis	(sold)
Acesita [Itabira Special Steel Company]	(sold)
PQU	(sold)
Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]	(call for bids issued)
CSN [National Iron and Steel Company]	(sold)
Cosipa [Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company]	(sold)
Acominas [Minas Gerais Steel Company]	(sold)
Lloydbras	(may be excluded)
Cobra [Brazilian Computers and Systems, Inc.]	(excluded)
Federal Railway Network	(under appraisal)
AGEF [Federal Network of General Railroad Warehouses]	(under appraisal)
Valec	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Light	(under appraisal)
Escelsa	(call for bids issued)
Meridional	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Nuclep [Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc.]	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Petroquimica Triunfo	(process interrupted)
Polisul	(sold)
PPH	(sold)
Copene	(call for bids issued)
Acrinor	(sold)
CBP	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Ciquine	(sold)
CPC	(call for bids issued)
CQR	(call for bids issued)
DETEN	(appraisal work to be contracted)
EDN	(under appraisal)

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Metanor	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Nitrocarbono	(under appraisal)
Nitroclor	(process interrupted)
Polialden	(sold)
Polipropileno	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Politeno	(sold)
Pronor	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Arafertil	(sold)
Indag	(sold)
Salgema	(call for bids issued)
Alclor	(process interrupted)
Cinal [Alagoas Industrial Company]	(process interrupted)
Coperbo [Pernambuco Synthetic Rubber Company]	(sold)
Nitriflex	(sold)
FCC	(appraisal work to be contracted)
Alcoolquimica	(excluded)
CBE	(sold)
Oxiteno	(sold)
Polibrasil	(under appraisal)
Poliderivados	(under appraisal)
Poliolefinas	(sold)
Petrocoque	(under appraisal)

Audit Shows Petrobras Accounting Irregularities

PY2910020194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2127 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sao Paulo, 27 Oct (AE)—An audit carried out by the Federal Revenue Service on Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] shows methods used by the company to maintain high fuel prices, and also shows that Petrobras has improperly kept part of the tax on oil imports that it collected. The amount withheld by Petrobras through December 1993 is $852 million. The audit also discovered that Petrobras made larger contributions than allowed to the Petrobras Pension Fund, Petros. This infraction, however, will be subject to a separate audit to be carried out by the Social Security Ministry.

According to the audit, the main Petrobras infraction regarding personnel is the payment of a danger bonus to 5,500 employees who regularly work in offices with air conditioning. These revelations are contained in the summary of a report on the audit carried out on Petrobras by order of President Itamar Franco, which will be discussed by the energy and finance ministers over the next few days.

The audit also shows that the tax burden on oil and oil by-products is 36 percent in Brazil. According to an expert, the tax burden on oil in developed countries amounts to 75 percent, as oil is considered a noble product whose production will one day end.

As for the taxes, Petrobras also failed to collect Finsocial [Social Investment Fund] taxes for the government. Petrobras did, however, pay the government $1.2 billion after a Federal Supreme Court ruling. Finsocial was charged on fuel bought by consumers.

The same expert revealed that the debt Petrobras claims it is owed by the national Treasury is a result of the methodology Petrobras has used since 1977 to establish its prices. If a more modern and appropriate methodology were used, the Treasury would have not owed anything to Petrobras, which claims the debt could reach as high as $3 billion.

Armed Forces Study Plan Against Rio Crime

PY2810213394

[FBIS Editorial Report] Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 27 October publishes on page 2 of section 3 a 300-word report by correspondent Fernando Molica in Rio de Janeiro on a Brazilian Armed forces survey that will allow them to take immediate action in the Rio de Janeiro shantytowns that are in the hands of drug traffickers. The report adds that according to two generals, this survey "was not made simply to diagnose the problem, but also to 'provide the strategic input for real action,' that is, to help define the kind of operation that should be carried out in each place."

The report also notes that on the evening of 25 October the Military Police seized weapons supplied only to the Armed Forces. The weapons were found in a house in Vila Carioca, Campo Grande, in western Rio de Janeiro. Among other weapons the police seized 18 launch grenades for FAL rifles, one tear gas canister, and six hand grenades. The police also seized two kg of marijuana and 4.9 kg of cocaine, and arrested Cleber Jose de Oliveira Castro who was caught in the house.

Operations of Drug Cartel Outlined

PY2810212794 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Oct 94 p 16

[Report by Vasconcelo Quadros from Sao Paulo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brazil has a Medellin Cartel of its own; more precisely, it operates in Mato Grosso do Sul. An investigation the intelligence department of the Federal Police has been keeping secret shows Brazilian drug trafficking has changed its profile. Veteran Brazilian smugglers have organized a cartel—like that of the Colombian drug mafia—switched trades, and taken over the distribution of cocaine. The police believe this cartel controls a 600 km strip along the border with Paraguay and Bolivia. The strip stretches from Corumba to Mundo Novo, in Mato Grosso do Sul, the two points of entry for cocaine into Brazil. The region of Pedro Juan

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Caballero, in Paraguay, has become a key cocaine trading post. A public thoroughfare, called International Avenue, is all that separates the city of Pedro Juan Caballero from Ponta Pora, in Mato Grosso do Sul.

As one Federal Police agent said: "Pedro Juan Caballero is the focal point of 70 percent of the cocaine sent from Brazil to Europe, Africa, and the United States, and 90 percent of domestic consumption. Many farms and cattle ranches around Pedro Juan Caballero have become stores for the cocaine that the cartel purchases in Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia." This year alone, the Federal Police have seized a mountain of cocaine: 10.8 metric tons, worth $350 million on the European wholesale market. Although this is more than the Federal Police have seized from their creation until 1992, the Federal Police acknowledge that it is a very small percentage of the cocaine that enters Brazil for domestic consumption or export.

The Brazilian cartel came to light more because of the gang war—which averages one fatality per day in the border area—than to the actions of drug enforcement organizations. The gang war started with the killing of Adilson Rossati Sanchez, one of Ponta Pora's old-time smugglers who had switched to cocaine traffic.

Rossati was killed in broad daylight under spectacular circumstances. He had an appointment with two men of his gang: Sebastiao Spencer and Ivanildo Carlos Rocha, aka Ivo, to clear up a disagreement stemming from the seizure of 90 kg of cocaine in Sao Paulo, which was in turn prompted by the arrest of another trafficker, Akira Nishitan. Ivo owed money to the gang and was blamed for the loss of the cocaine shipment. Irritated by these charges, Ivo took out an Uzi submachine gun and shot his way out. Rossatti and a bodyguard died instantly, but Spencer took six shots, survived, and is currently hiding somewhere in Paraguay.

The police believe Ivo to be one of the most dangerous drug traffickers in the region. The Federal Police know the names of the top crime bosses in Ponta Pora and in Pedro Juan Caballero, but are doing nothing about it because even though some of the deals take place in Brazilian territory, the criminals seek shelter in Paraguay and enjoy the generous complicity of the Paraguayan police. This list includes a Mr. Emilio, and Celio Wemura, aka Japones. They all bow to Fahd (pronounced Fuad) Jamil Jorge, Brazil's most powerful smuggler, whose influence is well-known in Mato Grosso do Sul power circles.

The police has no formal evidence against Fahd but he is mentioned as a suspect in all internal Federal Police reports dealing with the investigation of the new profile of trafficking in Brazil. Fahd is one of the most powerful and feared people in Mato Grosso do Sul. Nothing happens along the border without him finding out. Brazilian Federal Police and DEA—the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency—internal reports refer to him as Turco, because of his Arab descent. His power and influence are such that in 1990 he alone financed the campaign for the post of governor for his younger brother Gandi Jamil, who was defeated by current Mato Grosso do Sul Governor Pedro Petrossian, who is Fahd's friend.

Brazilian officials are most interested in the sudden change in drug routes. Ponta Pora has always been the main entry point for smuggled goods and for marijuana to a lesser extent. Over the past year, almost all the traffickers arrested in Sao Paulo, or on their way to Rio de Janeiro, confessed that they had either gone to collect drugs in Pedro Juan Caballero or had received the cocaine through rings operated by cocaine smugglers in that city. The large cocaine shipments seized in Brazil were always linked to the old-time smugglers. Cars stolen in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Campo Grande are commonly used as currency to purchase drugs in Pedro Juan Caballero.

"Stolen cars can be used to purchase cocaine in Paraguay, and drugs can be used to pay for stolen cars," said Lieutenant Colonel Nilton Tadeu Ferreira, commander of the Border Operations Group (GOF), a unit made up of civilian and militarized policemen to fight car theft along the Mato Grosso do Sul border with Paraguay and Bolivia. Last year the GOF seized 300 cars, 70 percent of which came from Sao Paulo. An imported Mitsubishi vehicle, for example, is worth 50 kg of cocaine.

The smugglers who operate along the border use criminals on the run from large cities for their trafficking operations, and also decide when to execute someone whenever it suits them. Col. Ferreira, speaking about the records of victims who are usually sentenced bandits on the run from Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, said: "Here organized crime has what we call the riverbend (a place on the river where the current leaves things that it carries)." Bodies are dumped beside back roads, or in secret cemeteries between Ponta Pora and Dourados.

The smuggler-traffickers maintain the power balance in the region. Their base is in the rural area of Pedro Juan Caballero district, they launder their money through the shops that sell goods for smuggling into Brazil, and buy expensive mansions in Paraguay as a way to show their power.

Construction of Launch Pad for Rocket Begins

PY2810203294 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 24 Oct 94 p 11

[Report by Virgina Silveira from Sao Jose dos Campos]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Complete Brazilian Space Mission (MECB) has taken yet another step toward the development of the Satellite Launch Vehicle (VLS). On instructions from the Aerospace Technical Center (CTA), the Aeronautics and Space Institute (IAE) in Sao Jose dos Campos began this month to build the launch pad for the Brazilian rocket in Alcantara (Maranhao State).

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The consortium, made up of the Andrade Gutierrez, Akros Engenharia, and Innocentti Industria Mecanica S.A. companies, will carry out the 5 million real project. The contract with these firms, which won a bidding in which 13 companies participated, was signed on 26 September. According to IAE director Tiago da Silva Ribeiro, the winning consortium has 18 months to finish the launch pad.

The Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) is supplying the funds for the construction of the launch pad. Esca Engenharia de Sistemas de Controle e Automacao developed the basic engineering project of the launch pad. This is a mechanical and civil engineering complex where assembly operations and pre-flight testing of the VSL will be conducted.

According to Joao Ribeiro Junior, chief of the IAE mechanical division and technical coordinator of the project, the launch pad has four basic subsystems: a movable gantry; an umbilical support tower; a launching platform; and the buildings, which employ 1,250 cubic meters of structural concrete.

The gantry, which is 36 meters high—the same as a 12-story building—is the most complex part of the launch pad. The gantry is a metal structure weighing 250 tons. The gantry also has a system (tracks) that allows it to move 60 meters away from the VLS at the time of the launch.

According to Ribeiro Junior, the gantry takes 40 minutes to move to its launch position, in addition to launch procedures which take two or three hours. The gantry also has a roll-out arm for up to 16 tons, an elevator, a class 100,000 payload changeout room in which the satellite is fitted onto the rocket, an emergency exit, and ladders and platforms for workers.

The umbilical support tower carries the electric and electronic cables and refrigeration pipes that supply the VLS until its launch. This tower is a 25-meter high metal structure that weights 1 ton. The launching platform is the base on which the assembled VSL will stand during pre-flight tests. This platform will also absorb the acoustic, thermal, and pressure impact during takeoff to prevent it from harming the VLS.

The rocket will be attached to the 7 meter-high platform until its launch. The infrastructure of the platform will include a switchyard, tracks to allow the gantry to move, a technical trench, an interface room, and a building for equipment and support. This infrastructure is necessary to erect the metal structures and to set up electrical supply systems, electronic equipment, cooling systems, a compressed air system, a nitrogen supply system, and other services.

The construction of the launch pad is IAE's final step in the development of the logistical support for the launching of the Brazilian VLS, which is mainly concentrated in Alcantara (Maranhao State). The CTA called for bids for the development of software for the VLS control console. The VLS control console will be part of the ground launch support systems.

The IAE director, Colonel Thiago Ribeiro, reported that the development of the VLS, however, has not been as expeditious as that of the ground facilities: It is six months behind schedule. "The lack of budget allocations is harming the program. Very little money was allocated to the program this year," Thiago Ribeiro said. The 1994 budget allocated only $9 million for the VLS program.

Nevertheless, the timeframe for the launching of the VLS is still January 1996. Col. Ribeiro believes that as of 1995 the IAE will begin testing structures and separation of booster stages and of the satellite. The stage that will follow the operational testing will be the building of the rockets that will actually fly. This will also take place in 1995.

The VLS has four solid-fuel stages and electrical and pyrotechnical systems capable of putting in orbit satellites that weigh between 100 and 200 kg. The VLS orbiting velocity is 7 km per second. The rocket is 19.4 meters long and weighs 115 kg [as published].

Chile

Frei Congratulates Germany's Helmut Kohl

PY2810165094 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Oct 94 p C4

[FBIS Translated Text] Chilean President Eduardo Frei yesterday phoned German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to congratulate him for his recent victory in the German congressional elections.

Frei expressed his willingness to continue working toward strengthening relations between the two countries.

Frei also agreed with the German chancellor's suggestion to visit Bonn on the occasion of the Social Development Summit to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

Insulza Returns, Comments on Glaciers Dispute

PY2810201294 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Returning to the country today, Chilean Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza reasserted that Chile and Argentina will not resort to an arbitration court over the Continental Glaciers border dispute. He also referred to the incident involving three Chilean female journalists in Mendoza, Argentina. He said:

[Begin Insulza recording] I have been informed that there was an unfortunate incident involving some journalists who were still awake while others had retired to their hotel rooms. They were summoned by someone who asked to see their identification papers and who subjected them to all types of controls.

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As I have said from the very beginning, I think this is a serious incident. Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella confirmed a few minutes ago that, strangely enough, these people were not from the immigration office and not empowered to request these documents. Argentine officials are investigating the issue. [end recording]

Insulza on Free Trade Negotiations, Haiti

PY2810224894 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Oct 94 p C5

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza yesterday refuted criticism by legislators and Agriculture Ministry officials of efforts by Foreign Ministry authorities to reach a possible free trade agreement with New Zealand.

Insulza emphasized that no official negotiations are underway, adding that it is hard to understand the "wave of criticism" unleashed by preliminary talks with New Zealand and other countries in the area. He explained that these talks are a routine activity of his ministry.

The minister thus refuted various government officials and members of parties of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy regarding alleged negotiations toward a free trade agreement with New Zealand which, should it materialize, would harm Chilean dairy farms by allowing the import of subsidized products to Chile.

The latest criticism came from Exequiel Silva, the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] Deputy for Valdivia, who held Juan Salazar, the Foreign Ministry Economic Relations director, and Bilateral Economic Relations Director Alejandro Jara responsible for the alleged negotiations who, he said, were "pretending to be bureaucrats."

The minister voiced his full support for the two Foreign Ministry officials who, he said, have been unjustifiably criticized. He explained that as a result of the preliminary talks with New Zealand it was deemed appropriate to inform the private sector. The Foreign Ministry has not yet received any formal complaint from dairy farmers or from the National Agriculture Association.

During his first meeting with the media after returning from the Vatican, where together with President Eduardo Frei he attended the beatification ceremony of Chilean priest Alberto Hurtado, Insulza ratified the Chilean Foreign Ministry's willingness to contribute to the reconstruction of Haiti.

He said Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return marks the beginning of a second phase in the democratic recovery of that Caribbean nation. A Chilean reconnaissance mission will travel to Haiti in the next few days to determine how Chile can cooperate.

He said Chile could help reorganize the security forces. Carabineros and Investigative Police officers could participate in this task but Insulza chose not to comment further until the mission returns from Haiti.

Insulza disclosed that he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 28 October in Washington and that the meeting comes within the framework of bilateral political consultations.

He also pointed out that new U.S. Ambassador to Chile John Biehl arrived in Santiago yesterday and that consultations will be held with him regarding prospects for negotiating for a free trade agreement with the United States. Insulza explained: "We have summoned him [Biehl] and Finance Minister (Eduardo) Aninat specifically to discuss free trade agreements."

Regarding the meeting with Christopher, Insulza said it is a first meeting, which is always necessary when one assumes a post, as he did with some Latin American counterparts. Within the next two weeks he will also meet Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella.

The minister added that the Foreign Ministry is concerned because there is still no concrete proposal on trade and investments to be discussed during the Summit of the Americas in December in Miami.

The minister said this during a news conference granted at noon yesterday. He then attended a luncheon at the Club de la Union, at the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce. While there, he referred to the main aspects of the Chilean foreign policy, especially bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

He explained that Chile is seeking a strategy for its multiple insertion in the world economy through a combination of unilateral, bilateral, regional, and multilateral agreements that will be less vulnerable to the cycles of the foreign markets.

Referring to Mercosur [Common Market of the South], he said: "We want an agreement compatible with our economy and to preserve the macroeconomic stability we have attained with great effort, and to preserve our freedom for trade negotiations with other markets."

Court Reverses 11 Convictions for 'Terrorism'

PY2810213094 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Oct 94 p C9

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Santiago Appellate Court has repealed special Judge Gloria Olivares' ruling passed down in October 1993, thus acquitting 11 people sentenced by Olivares to between 541 and 820 days for violating the State Security Law.

Olivares investigated the Autonomous Manuel Rodriguez Front (FMR-A) after an Interior Ministry request was filed on 17 April 1991.

After completing her investigations, Judge Olivares condemned the individuals charged with violating clause "d" of Article 4 of the Security Law, which punishes those who form paramilitary groups, combat groups, or similar organizations with the purpose of substituting public forces, attacking them, or interfering in their

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performance; or with the purpose of rebelling against the state or attacking high-ranking authorities. [passage omitted]

Basically, the Appellate Court revoked the sentences and acquitted Adan Pacheco Pinto, Lucio Maldonado Garcia, Juan Carlos Soto Cardenas, Rafael Pino Maldonado, John Taborga Zepeda, Patricio Huinca Sepulveda, Angel Ortega Riquelme, Carlos Herrera Duque, Patricio Ortiz Montenegro, Luis Morales Salas y Sergio Olivares Vasquez.

It should be pointed out that on 19 March Luis Morales fled from the third floor of the Santo Domingo prison, where he had been expecting a pardon from the president of the Republic, as had happened to his fellow inmates during the previous administration.

Morales Salas was sentenced by the Military Court to 15 years plus one day of imprisonment for participating in the abduction of Commander Carlos Carreno Barrera on 1 September 1980 by the FMR. Morales had to wait for Olivares to complete her investigation in order to benefit from the presidential pardon.

Imprisoned Mapu-Lautaro Leader Admits Group 'Weakening'

PY2810164894 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Oct 94 pp C1, C12

[Article by Sebastian Campana]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Guillermo Ossandon Canas, the imprisoned leader of the "Mapu-Lautaro" extremist group, has admitted that his arrest imposed a hard blow on the organization and that it was the result of a weakening stage caused by the arrests or deaths of the group's main members in 1993.

In his first remarks to the press upon being arrested by the civilian police in Cartagena in June 1994, Ossandon agreed to answer a written questionaire given to him by EL MERCURIO at his cell at the High-Security Prison next to the Santiago Penitentiary. [passage omitted]

Four months after his arrest, Ossandon believes that his arrest was the cost paid as a result of a concrete political option: "To assume capitalism in an intransigent manner, being fully consequent with our political guidelines."

He explained that the government has earmarked a large amount of resources and personnel with the exclusive mission of annihilating in any way possible what he called the "Lautaro Phenomenon."

He added: "We began 1994 with unresolved weaknesses" stemming from the intensive fighting in 1993, the highest cost of which, as he said, were the casualties suffered in the attack and subsequent shootout on Apoquimbo and Manquehue streets in October 1993. Eight people died then, among them three Lautaro group members.

He explained further that "these weaknesses concern communications and resources, and obviously, our mobilization capacity. These are the points that allowed the investigative police to arrest me."

He ruled out, therefore, the report that his arrest was the fruit of great intelligence work by the police or of an infiltration. "They reached me by mere chance and only 24 hours in advance." [passage omitted]

In his responses, Ossandon Canas categorically denied that the "Mapu-Lautaro" is facing a termination crisis, arguing that it will never happen because the organization, in his judgment, "is part of the people's environment."

"Our organization is experiencing what any other force experiences when it is hit hard," and it is the result of having reached a stage of great force and growth, he said.

Ossandon Canas said that his current tactical effort focuses on the impulse which he called "advice of worthy people."

Ossandon also denied that an internal debate was being held on the adoption of new tactics when he was arrested. "Our last meeting was the third national plenum which ended in August 1993. At that plenum we essentially agreed on this policy of Alternative People's Power," taking 1995 as the objective.

He added that one of the decisions made was to work in coordination and unity with elements of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and Manuel Rodriguez Front. He went on to say that they also decided on a rapprochement with what he called a "new emerging progress," which is made up of "people from different religions and cultures, homosexuals, lesbians, artists, ecologists, etc."

Ossandon termed reports on the appearance of a new internal trend represented by a "political coordination board" and an alleged document reportedly released within the organization as something made up by the Investigative Police intelligence organizations. "So often they made up problems, groups, or internal splits," he said. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Samper Urges Citizens To Vote in 31 Oct Elections

PA2910025594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 2358 GMT 28 Oct 94

[Speech by President Ernesto Samper at Narino Palace in Santa de Fe de Bogota; date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombians: On Sunday we will participate in one of the most important democratic activities for the future of our country. We will elect 32 governors, 1,043 mayors, 502 deputies, and 11,000

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councilmen. We will choose the key leaders to solve the problems of each region in Colombia. Thus you have the great responsibility of making good, conscientious choices.

I urge you all to go to the polls and to be a part of this democratic day. I urge you to exercise the right to participate with your vote as citizens to build the nation we all want. Those who do not vote tomorrow will not be able to criticize those who are elected.

One of the priorities of my administration is to work shoulder to shoulder with the leaders of the various regions to solve the people's real problems. Together with those who are elected, I will promote strong, permanent, and joint action to take government to Colombia's rural areas.

By voting we will prove that we are not intimidated by those who are against progress and the welfare of Colombians. We will prove we are not intimidated by the violent people who, from different extremes, are bent on creating a climate of chaos and insecurity which the entire country rejects. With the strength of our votes, we must tell the enemies of democracy that the majority of Colombians want and dream of a positive Colombia, an optimistic Colombia, a Colombia where everyone helps in searching for the paths of coexistence and reconciliation.

The national government and the president reiterate their willingness to guarantee the free exercise of the right to vote throughout the national territory. The public force will intervene firmly wherever there are disruptions of public order, intimidation, or corruption in order to guarantee free voting for all citizens.

Colombians, on Sunday we will have a new opportunity to tell violent individuals and the pessimists that we believe in a country where hope prevails, where respect for others does not disappear, where fairness is not a remote utopia, and where there is talk not only of problems but of solutions. This is the great opportunity we have on Sunday to continue building Colombia. I urge you to vote. Vote for Colombia. Vote for your children. Vote for peace. Vote for yourselves. Thank you.

National Police on Alert

PA2910030894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Oct 94 p 8A

[FBIS Translated Text] Given the possibility of an escalation in terrorist activity by the Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CG] in advance of the 30 October elections, the National Police yesterday were forced to decree a first-degree alert and the quartering of 102,000 agents nationwide.

The decision was made yesterday after rebels waged two attacks on National Police agents in Magdalena and Choco Departments, leaving nine people missing, including a captain, and three agents wounded.

The announcement was made yesterday during a ceremony held at National Police Headquarters to launch five new helicopters which were purchased for $20 million and which will be used in the fight against guerrillas, drug trafficking, and crime.

Defense Minister Fernando Botero and high-ranking Armed Forces officials presided over the ceremony. The helicopters will be used in operations against the Cali Cartel in Valle; guerrillas in Antioquia, Atlantico, and Uraba; and common criminal groups operating in Santa Fe de Bogota.

As the ceremony concluded, Botero reported 65 percent of public forces personnel are conducting operations against the CG, pointing out that controlling and pursuing subversive groups will continue indefinitely.

The defense minister stressed that the Armed Forces were ordered to guarantee free elections, and he argued that Armed Forces operations cannot be stopped as he referred to a letter sent by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which claimed military agents have been harassing its members.

Botero spoke about the possibility of convicts Gerardo Bermudez and Francisco Caraballo, leaders of the ELN [Army of National Liberation] and EPL [Popular Liberation Army], respectively, becoming spokesmen for their organizations in an eventual peace process, adding that "no decision has been made with regard to this issue."

Meanwhile, Major General Octavio Vargas Silva, director of the National Police, said the quartering of agents began yesterday, pointing out that Operation Democracy procedures were implemented in all National Police jurisdictions.

The step was taken following recent attacks by rebels and reports of a pending escalation of guerrilla activities on 30 October. Gen. Vargas added that 15,000 men from the many stations and schools were deployed in Santa Fe de Bogota and that they have intensified their patrols in many areas of the city in light of possible subversive attacks.

The high-ranking official said there have been reports of guerrillas exerting pressure on candidates in some regions of the country, and he explained that the police are working on a plan to guarantee normal elections. The police have ordered the deployment of operational support units to these regions to supervise areas under guerrilla control.

'Guerrillas' Allegedly Kill 2 Candidates

PA2910033494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0116 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Less than 40 hours before municipal elections in Colombia, the guerrillas have stepped up their sabotage of the electoral process by killing two more candidates in northern Colombia.

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The candidates were shot by alleged rebels in Antioquia and Cordoba Departments during a campaign stop, according to a military report.

The source said one of the candidates killed by alleged members of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGSB] aspired to the position of mayor in the conflict-ridden town of Planetarrica in the north.

The rebels have threatened to sabotage next Sunday's municipal elections. As part of this plan, they have kidnapped three politicians and shot six others in the past 30 days.

The Colombian people will elect 11,000 municipal councilmen, 1,043 mayors, 32 governors, and 502 deputies to departmental assemblies.

In a message broadcast over a local radio station tonight, President Ernesto Samper invited the Colombian people to vote "to prove that we are not intimidated by those who are against progress and the welfare of Colombians."

"With the strength of our votes, we must tell the enemies of democracy that the majority of Colombians want and dream of a positive Colombia where everyone helps in searching for the paths of coexistence and reconciliation," he concluded.

Violence Reported in Bolivar, Bogota

PA3010143594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 30 Oct 94

[From the "AM/PM Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few hours before elections, clashes are being reported in Bolivar Department and some dynamite has been seized in Bogota. This is the beginning:

The Army has seized some dynamite and explosives which, according to the authorities, were to be used against El Dorado Airport and the Bogota transportation terminal. The 13th Brigade reported finding grenades, booby traps, detonators, fuses, and blueprints for the airport and transportation terminal in a house in Luis Carlos Galan neighborhood in southern Bogota. No one was arrested.

Five people were ambushed and killed by guerrillas of the 37th FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] Front in Bolivar Department. The incident occurred this morning in the rural area of El Carmen de Bolivar Municipality. There were 15 soldiers in five jeeps escorting some civilians. The Magallepo Corregimiento police inspector, a driver, and three peasants were killed in the attack, and two marine infantrymen were wounded. Innocent people are once again dying in terrorist attacks.

This morning in Sabana de Torres Municipality, Santander Department, a station wagon carrying 5th Brigade Ricaute Battalion soldiers was ambushed. Killed in the attack were soldiers Mauricio Silva, Jesus David Silva, Jorge Modesto Sachica, Fidel Daza Calderon, Juan Carlos Vergara, and civilian Hubert Sepulveda, who was driving the vehicle. A guerrilla was also killed and 10 other soldiers were seriously wounded. The soldiers were transiting the area in an effort to provide security on election day. According to the 5th Brigade report, the attack was carried out by the 20th FARC Front. This guerrilla action is the most serious disruption of public order in Santander Department and comes just one day before the elections.

Apartado is a war zone that is setting an example for the country. The right, the left, supporters of the guerrillas, and the paramilitary—the blues, the reds, and the greens—have all rallied around a single candidate for mayor. The most important pacification process Uraba has ever seen will be consolidated at the polls tomorrow. The consensus among the Hopefuls [Hope, Peace, and Liberty], Communists, Conservatives, Liberals, and independents to elect Gloria Cuartas mayor of Apartado has managed to bring detente to the city. During her campaign, about 2,000 additional identity cards were registered, and three more civic movements emerged.

[Begin Apartado Civic Movement Spokesman Nicolas Viela recording] We are making new inroads with a civic movement. We are guaranteeing the democratic opening that is taking place so we can have an ideological agreement. [end recording]

On the eve of the elections, the parties have forgotten the traditional watchwords and are seeking votes by talking about coexistence. Each rallies around their candidates for councilmen, and all support Gloria Cuartas for mayor. With this process, Apartado has created the conditions necessary to transform Uraba into a special district of peace.

Despite the deaths and resignations of seven mayors; canceled elections in seven municipalities; and the intimidation tactics of guerrillas, authorities, and paramilitary groups in various regions, the country sees in these elections a new opportunity for a democratic way out. For the first time the program votes are making people think more about the ideas than the person.

[Begin Constitutional Expert Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa recording] For the first time in the country's history, citizens can choose a program and revoke the official's mandate if the program is not followed. I believe this is a substantial change in the country's legal and political structure. [end recording]

Two million ballots will allow voters to see the faces of 92,000 candidates for public office amid another phenomena: the resistance of an old political class that intends to keep its turf in municipalities and departments whatever the costs and in the face of new styles and programs and less machinery.

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[Begin Nieto Roa recording] We are witnessing the birth of a new political class. Politics are made by politicians, and this new class will quickly replace the political class. [end recording]

That is why, despite citizens' apathy, tomorrow's elections will increase the scope of the participative democracy that began with the 1991 Constitution.

FARC Attacks Police Convoy

PA3010153694 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1338 GMT 30 Oct 94

[Report by unidentified reporter from Risaralda Department—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reporter] Members of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] 47th Front have dynamited an Army convoy en route to Andica corregimiento, which is 40 minutes from Belen de Umbria Municipality. We have Risaralda Governor Dr. (Roberto Gardia Montealegre) on the telephone with this official report.

[(Gardia Montealegre)] I just received the painful and unpleasant news that the FARC 47th front apparently attacked a group of policemen who were providing security in a corregimiento of Belen de Umbria Municipality. The attack was carried out with guns and grenades. According to the information we have, one officer is injured and one policeman is seriously injured.

[Reporter] Were the policemen traveling in a truck with civilians, or were they all policemen?

[(Gardia Montealegre)] Hello?

[Reporter] Mr. Governor, I was asking if the report from Belen de Umbria Municipality states whether the policemen were alone or if civilians were with them.

[(Gardia Montealegre)] Apparently they were all policemen who were providing security for the elections in that area.

[Reporter] That was a report from Governor (Gardia Montealegre) provided. It has also been announced that the police force will be increased in that municipality, which is 45 minutes from Pereira.

[Station announcer] Were there any casualties?

[Reporter] Apparently one soldier was seriously wounded. The others were injured. A helicopter is preparing to take them to San Jorge University Hospital in Pereira.

[Station announcer] Is Belen de Umbria near Pereira?

[Reporter] Belen de Umbria is 45 minutes away.

Elections Suspended in Some Areas

PA3010143394 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Oct 94 p 6A

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government admitted yesterday that the public order situation in some areas of the country has deteriorated over the past few hours as Sunday's elections draw closer.

The assassinations of mayoral candidate Joaquin Sandoval and town council candidates Eulogio Cuevas and Jesus Duarte on Wednesday in the town of Chica (Boyaca Department) have forced the executive branch to suspend elections in that town.

The decision was made after the Electoral Follow-Up Committee described the situation as "abnormal" and "very grave."

Although National Registrar Luis Camilo Osorio had initially requested that the elections in Chita be suspended only at the local level—in other words, only the elections for mayor and council members, not for governor—Communications Minister Armando Benedetti said that if the elections were suspended, it should be done at a general level. That position finally prevailed.

Despite these incidents, Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe said the situation in the rest of the country is "relatively normal."

"Of course the situation concerns us. That is why the public force is fully implementing Operation Democracy. The government is taking preventive measures with the general idea of being able to hold elections throughout the country on Sunday," he said.

Serpa reiterated that the executive is determined to suspend elections in those areas where guerrillas, paramilitary groups , or drug traffickers are trying to impose mayoral, gubernatorial, or town councils candidates.

He added that if these measures are not enough to guarantee that the people's will is not manipulated, then the government will support an annulment of the elections.

Asked to list the municipalities where the government believes elections should be suspended, Serpa said only that there are specific locations in southern Bolivar and Santander Departments. "There will be an official statement once further investigations are complete," he added.

The vice president and the government, communications, and defense ministers attended yesterday's meeting, which lasted nearly three hours. Members of the Armed Forces High Command, the attorney general, the Electoral Council president, and the national registrar also attended the meeting.

Defense Minister: Elections Normal

PA3010202294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Oct 94

[Interview with National Defense Minister Fernando Botero Zea by Chelo Garcia at the Defense Ministry in Santa Fe de Bogota; from the "Cripton Newscast"—live]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Chelo Garcia] Good afternoon. I am at the office of Defense Minister Fernando Botero Zea. Mr. Minister, over the past few hours there have been several incidents of public disorder. Five soldiers were killed in a massacre in Santander, and several shipments of dynamite have been discovered in Bogota and Medellin. What would you report to the general public in this, your initial election day report, on the public order situation?

[Fernando Botero] I believe things are normal in a majority of the country's municipalities. There was one unfortunate incident in Belen de Umbria Municipality in Risaralda Department. There was a clash and, regrettably, a grenade exploded near one of the voting tables. A few people were injured and have been evacuated by the National Police. Fortunately there were no military or civilian casualties. The elections, however, had to be suspended, at least in that small corregimiento.

[Garcia] Mr. Minister, it is now midday. Would you still invite Colombians who have not yet decided to vote to do so?

[Botero] Yes. Of course. Nothing is more important to democratization in Colombia than a good turnout in this election.

[Garcia] Mr. Minister, thank you very much for receiving us. This is our last minute report from the Defense Ministry.

Government Minister on Heavy Turnout in Elections

PA3010201594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Oct 94

[Interview with Government Minister Horacio Serpa by Ivan Dario Parra at the Government Ministry in Santa Fe de Bogota; from the "Cripton Newscast"—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Parra] We are here in Horacio Serpa's office at the Government Ministry. Dr. Serpa, what is your assessment of the elections, which have been under way now for five hours?

[Serpa] Very positive. The reports we have are satisfactory. We also had reports of minor incidents, but they have not altered the country's normal situation.

[Parra] Mr. Minister, did these incidents occur in isolated communities?

[Serpa] As we already know, a police patrol was attacked in Belen de Umbria. We can say, however, that the other incidents were only an inconvenience. The rest of the reports we have are good and encouraging. Elections are moving along well. We believe people will be pleased as elections end.

[Parra] There were reports of transportation problems in Medellin. Are they true?

[Serpa] We have no information on that.

[Parra] What about voter turnout?

[Serpa] Very heavy. It is good that people are voting; it is good for the country and for democracy. I believe a heavy turnout will be the rule today.

[Parra] Mr. Minister, thank you for being with us on the "Cripton Newscast."

Defense Minister Defends Generals He 'Scolded'

PA2810133294 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Oct 94 p 8a

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Fernando Botero Zea backed the two generals he "scolded" three weeks ago for commenting on the military law and human rights. Botero Zea told the Attorney General's Office that he thought the two officers had not committed any infraction.

In a certified statement sent to the legal office for Armed Forces issues, which is investigating the incident, Botero admitted that he had sent the letter to the generals. He, however, asserted that he did not believe that the officers' opinions should be considered infractions that require disciplinary action and that have to be formally investigated by the Attorney General's Office.

Botero was referring to the cases of Major General Juan Salcedo Lora, the inspector general of the Army, and Major General Manuel Jose Bonett Locarno, the Army's Second Division commander, who are being preliminarily investigated by the Attorney General's Office.

The investigations began after the media reported that Minister Botero had sent those generals a letter stating that he would not allow them to comment on topics that were highly political.

The minister's letter referred to two articles written by the generals in the EN GUARDIA newspaper. In those articles, the generals commented on the military law, due obedience, and human rights.

However, the defense minister backed the two officers and silenced initial rumors that the two generals, with a brilliant military career, would resign from the Armed Forces.

At the time, a big controversy arose and there were people who asserted that the topics broached by the generals were not highly political but very related to military life and, thus, the generals were free to express their opinions on them.

This was when the Attorney General's Office assigned its Armed Forces office to investigate if there had been any irregularities in the officer's actions.

The Generals Testify

One of the legal action's measures was to request Botero's statement for the certified statement. EL TIEMPO was able to see paragraphs of this document and in it, the

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defense minister backed the officers and said he did not think it was necessary to have them formally investigated.

The minister extolled the qualities of the two generals and their track record in the Armed Forces. Botero said he had written the letter for internal order reasons and not for faults or because his office considered that the officers had overstepped their commissions.

The assigned legal office is studying Botero's response but has also called Salcedo and Bonett to testify and explain their actions in detail and give their reasons for writing the mentioned articles.

The two officers have maintained a prudent silence during the past weeks. Now, with the legal office's summon, they will have to present their arguments and explain the events.

A top-ranking source at the Attorney General's Office told EL TIEMPO yesterday, that the officers' main defense will be that the EN GUARDIA newspaper never existed officially as it had never been printed. Media sources had access to a tentative copy of the newspaper as it would appear if it were published.

Controversy Between Military Justice, Police Over Narcolist

PA3110020694 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Oct 94 p A-14

[Report by Clara Elvira Ospina]

[FBIS Translated Text] The episode of the narcolist that included more than 100 policemen allegedly linked to the drug trafficking capos in Valle has caused a controversy between military criminal justice and the police.

Whereas military justice does not believe there is enough evidence linking the policemen who have appeared on the list to presumed beneficiaries of drug money, the police believe the sole document found by the Search Bloc is enough to issue arrest warrants against the policemen.

What has been known as the "narcolist" is a document found by the Cali Search Bloc during a search of a company owned by Guillermo Pallomari, "Reagan."

A list containing the names of more than 100 policemen from Valle and Cali was found in the installations. Figures on presumed bribes ranging between 100,000 pesos and 1 million pesos have appeared on the list.

Contrary to what the police judicial division involved in the process believes, the 54th Military Criminal Court of Arraignment has abstained from issuing arrest warrants against those policemen whose names have appeared on the document.

The 54th Military Criminal Court of Arraignment basically argues that the sole fact of appearing on a list of presumed bribes does not prove they have either agreed to be part of it or that they had already received money.

Pallomari's statements support this argument. Pallomari did not deny he had business with the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers. He has said the payment had not been made when the document was found although he was responsible for delivering that money to the policemen.

The police members who are under investigation by military criminal justice include two lieutenant colonels, five majors, 14 captains, 11 lieutenants, 14 corporals, four sergeants, and six agents, all of whom have appeared on the list found in "Reagan's" office.

Most of the policemen said during the investigations that they knew nothing about being part of a presumed mafia list and that they never received drug trafficking payments directly or by a third party.

The special police prosecutor, who is participating in this process, believes, however, this argument is unacceptable.

Official sources have said when the decision made by the 54th Court was known, the police inspection, which had already decided on the dismissal, deemed it necessary to appeal the judge's decision. The police believe that this episode must be investigated carefully and that penalties should be applied if the members of the institution are found responsible.

The prosecutor who has been involved in the process and who was assigned to the police also believes the decision should be appealed.

His main argument is that the list does constitute serious proof. Under those conditions, according to the argument, it can be assumed the money was received either as a donation, a point which the prosecutor deems unlikely, or as a bribe to commit a criminal action or to turn a blind eye. The prosecutor believes that the list constitutes a serious proof and that an initial measure should be taken at least while judicial investigations yield more conclusive evidence.

The prosecutor questioned in the appeal the assessment made by the 54th Military Criminal Court of the evidence gathered until then and has said it has received merely a subjective evaluation. He has also said he believes the document is a very forceful sign if not a proof that a crime was being committed.

Cartel Boss Rodriguez To Be Tried for Drug Trafficking

PA2910140394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Oct 94

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the Cali Cartel bosses can be called to trial for the first time and be sentenced.

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A patient investigative work that has lasted more than four years has allowed the Prosecutor's Office to gather evidence in the United States, Costa Rica, and Venezuela to call Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela to trial for the first time; he will be tried for drug trafficking.

According to the process, he is linked with the trafficking of 200 kg of cocaine to Costa Rica with Miami as the final destination in 1990. Colombian authorities were able to conduct the investigations due to information from the DEA and two Florida courts that knew about the case.

It will now be a judge who will sentence him. Rodriguez Orejuela is also linked to other cases for money laundering and drug trafficking. Evidence into these cases is expected from the United States.

In addition, cases against the two Rodriguez Orejuela brothers will be opened with information from Spain and Italy.

Security Director Reveals 'Serious' Problems

PA3110011594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 30 Oct 94

[From the "AM/PM Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pressured by circumstances, Ramiro Bejarano, director of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS], has revealed serious problems in the institution. One such problem is the existence of fiefdoms. He has also spoken about long-standing vices that became laws and employees who are refusing to obey him.

Corruption, influence peddling, and immorality in certain cases are emerging at DAS facilities, according to Bejarano. After two months of carrying out intelligence operations at the DAS, he found disciplinary problems, section chiefs who had prevented their transfers for years, and the plot that allowed Puerto Rican extraditable Fernando Montanez to escape in an attempt to discredit his administration:

[Begin Bejarano recording] I knew his escape was part of a plot, because it was aimed at giving the idea that the new DAS administration was incompetent and inept. [end recording]

DAS employees and former employees are responsible for the mess, chaos, and immorality. They have granted privileges to convicts and became direct contacts between criminals and the outside world:

[Begin Bejarano recording] A small number of DAS employees lack decency, and certain former employees have felt that as the new team was brought in their fiefdom or turf within the DAS was being invaded as the new administration purchased equipment. [end recording]

More than 1,500 resumes, which are being studied to continue the institution's purge, are at the director's office.

Ecuador

Vice President: U.S. Offers Support Against EU Protectionism

PA2810152294 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Alberto Dahik has confirmed he obtained U.S. support to fight against the protectionism of the European Union, which adversely affects Ecuadoran banana exports. Two days ago, Dahik met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore and obtained his support to oppose European protectionism.

U.S. banana companies Chiquita Banana, Standard Fruit, and Banana Hawaii are satisfied with the measure adopted by the government and said that as opposed to the EU, the U.S. market is free and open regarding international trade.

President Urges Congress To Approve Constitutional Reforms

PA2910172794 Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito, 27 Oct (AFP)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen urged the members of the unicameral Congress on Thursday to approve the constitutional reforms proposed by his government in a task that must be tackled with firmness.

Over a radio and television network on Thursday evening, the chief of state recalled his calls for understanding, dialogue, and joint work and maintained that important achievements have been made in various fronts of government action during the 26 months of his administration.

Duran-Ballen, who will meet with Congress President Heinz Moeller on 28 October to pave the way for approval of the reforms, has said Ecuador demands a Constitution that redefines the state concept and reestablishes the people's rights, duties, and guarantees.

The reforms, Duran-Ballen added, must also end the monopolization of the administration of justice and social security, must guarantee the protection of the environment and the use of natural resources, must incorporate Indians and blacks into national development, and must give good and just treatment to the old, women, and children.

Moeller announced that other initiatives from social and labor sectors as well as political parties will be included in the presidential proposal. This proposal will be done by consensus, he said, adding the final bill will be approved around 18 December.

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President Discusses Scandals, Trials, Resignation

95SM0008A Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p A7

[Interview with President Sixto Duran-Ballen by Miguel Rivadeneira; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen has not lost his vitality. At 73 years of age, he is still physically strong. He works from 12 to 14 hours a day and he likes to visit the projects that the government is carrying out.

His favorite is when construction is involved, which is his special interest as an architect. He is crazy about the Carondolet Complex. Is it going well? No. It is going very well. There, the workers never let him down. Are they the only ones?

Enma, his granddaughter, became his principal family concern: the flowers and honey case gave him some bad moments. He does not avoid discussion and he faces up to all subjects, although his close collaborators (Minister of Government Marcelo Santos, his Secretary of Communications, Enrique Proano, and his daughter Alicia) worry about what he might say.

[Rivadeneira] The future of the islands is worrisome. Has the government not fought hard to defend this patrimony? How can the archipelago be preserved properly?

[Duran-Ballen] We have to divide the problem of the islands into two parts, that might appear to be in conflict with one another, but both of which require much attention. One: the fact that from 10,000 to 15,000 persons live on the islands and have the same rights and obligations as those of us who live in continental Ecuador. These are people who claim their right to work, to have the same level of services that we expect. The other: there is a group of citizens who believe that the islands are a kind of ecological monument, and the problem is to keep both aspects in mind.

[Rivadeneira] What specific contribution have you made during the past two years and why do these demands continue?

[Duran-Ballen] I believe that few governments have given as much attention to ecological concerns as mine has: a special commission has been created to coordinate all organizations on the islands, wherever they are, so that those rights to work and to live decently that are possessed by the first group of citizens that I mentioned earlier do not bring about the deterioration of the environment and the ecology.

[Rivadeneira] What has this accomplished?

[Duran-Ballen] It has been the basis, for example, of the new petroleum exploitation patrols, so that in the future, whatever is adjudicated and explored, and eventually exploited, will be subject to the rules of the game.

[Rivadeneira] How much do the allotments come to?

[Duran-Ballen] Besides periodic disbursements to the councils, to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, through the Undersecretariat of Environmental Protection, we have allocated 1.5 billion [no currency unit in original text] in 1994, of which the first 675 million were allocated in the third month of this year. As soon as we have a complete account of expenses, the disbursement will be completed. If any supplementary payment becomes necessary subsequently, we will put it in the 1995 budget. Furthermore, we have increased the allocations and in a few weeks additional electric power plants will be delivered to inhabited locations on the islands.

[Rivadeneira] Is the fishing problem not a mess? Did shark fishing come as a surprise to you perhaps?

[Duran-Ballen] We cannot prohibit fishing, but we must regulate it and this has been dome, with the consent of the inhabitants themselves. The combined institutional commission went to the Galapagos, drafted a decree which is already in effect and which regulates the various aspects of fishing activities.

[Rivadeneira] How can we prevent the Galapagos being declared a park on the way to extinction?

[Duran-Ballen] We definitely do not agree with that purported declaration. We are strengthening the institutions that are involved in the preservation of the islands, and precisely because of what has happened in Puerto Villamil (Isabella Island, where the latest fire occurred), we have allotted funds to complete the airport, so that facilities will exist on the three islands. At the moment there are airfields only on Baltra and Puerto Baquerizo, where, for example, large aircraft can land to fight fires. Another positive point for the Galapagos is that we have obtained two large patrol boats from Germany, to use for policing illegal fishing.

[Rivadeneira] There is a controversy over the famous permits to visit the islands, which would affect the preservation of their ecology. How many permits did the government authorize?

[Duran-Ballen] It is not true that additional permits have been granted during my administration. Only five permits have been authorized, three of them due to decisions by the courts. Proposals initiated by the previous government caused a dispute over three existing permits. These permits had to be revalidated by this administration, based on court decisions, and then, as an experiment on the effect of visits by large ships, we authorized two visits, one for each of two companies. Two experimental visits with the express authorization of the presidency of the Republic.

[Rivadeneira] There will be no further authorizations for large ships?

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[Duran-Ballen] Those are the only permits authorized, and I want to be unequivocal about it, because it shows our interest in maintaining the Galapagos Islands as not only what Ecuador wants, but the whole world: the patrimony of mankind.

[Rivadeneira] How can you avoid parliamentary opposition ending up in political trials of your whole cabinet?

[Duran-Ballen] Simply accepting that decision because it has already been made by the deputies. It is a typical case of speaking falsely. The legislators have already announced their position without listening to the ministers, who are already out of office, which proves that our Constitution should be changed so that a minimal presence in Congress is not sufficient to destabilize the Republic.

[Rivadeneira] Do you believe that the democratic system is going to be destabilized by political trials or by the corruption that pervades the country and the latest scandals?

[Duran-Ballen] I believe it is you, the media people, who should know whether or not this is happening. The country depends on you. You have the responsibility to make people reflect on whether what is happening is proportional in measure, or is the intention of some to destabilize the democratic process.

[Rivadeneira] What are you going to do to fight these charges?

[Duran-Ballen] Politics is involved here, but the matter must be examined by another power that is not the executive: the judicial branch. So, as the executive, I refrain from giving any further opinions on the subject. But the country is witness to the fact that as soon as I knew of the matter, I asked the prosecutor to act, and now I must wait for the judicial branch to act. I hope in accordance with the law and not under political pressure.

[Rivadeneira] Will you respect whatever decision the judiciary hands down?

[Duran-Ballen] I will respect the outcome of the justice system, but some news media have already sentenced my granddaughter, despite the fact that the press itself says that the checks went to the personal accounts of the Anda Carreno family. My granddaughter was vilely used by her future in-laws and is guilty only of ingenuously agreeing to their request. She did not share in the loan, she has not received a single penny, and she is innocent. This is a question of using any means to involve the president, who had no knowledge of what was going on.

[Rivadeneira] Have you given any thought to resigning?

[Duran-Ballen] No. Here it is worthwhile to recall a remark made in public by my former vice mayor, Benjamin Teran Varea, when there was some difficulty when I was mayor of Quito. He said: Mayor Duran-Ballen is a pedigreed bull, they jab him, and instead of drawing back, he feels challenged. This is my situation, because I feel challenged.

Health Minister Resigns; Successor Not Yet Known

PA2710151594 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Oct 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the presidency have confirmed that Health Minister Patricio Abad has resigned his post. The sources added that Abad presented his resignation to the president of the Republic, who accepted it immediately. The name of the new health minister is not yet known.

Monetary Board President Discusses Foreign Debt

95SM0008B Quito HOY in Spanish 24 Sep 94 p 3A

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The country will have to pay $750 million (more than 1.695 trillion sucres) in 1995 to service the total foreign debt, announced the president of the Monetary Board, Ana Luisa Armijos.

Ecuador's service on its foreign debt (nearly $13 billion) in 1995 will be 4.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), which will reach $17 billion in 1995.

However, total service of the debt could vary, because of conditions in the international financial market, Armijos explained.

She said that in the preliminary draft of the general budget of state for 1995, the disbursements that the country will make to service the external debt will have to be considered. The disbursements will have to be specified in sucres, which will be 1.695 trillion sucres.

According to an announcement by Finance Minister Modesto Correa, the preliminary draft budget for 1995 will be 8 trillion sucres, although this is still under study and must be approved by the national Congress.

Armijos said that payment of the $750 million is to service the entire foreign debt, including debts to multilateral organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Andean Development Corporation, etc. Payments to the friendly governments grouped in the Club of Paris are also contemplated, as well as to private international banks, with which debt renegotiation has just been completed, the final agreement to be signed in Madrid, Spain, on 4 October.

Ecuador will have to pay between $220 and $230 million to private international banks alone in 1995, an amount that will continue to increase year after year.

Armijos pointed out that, although a successful renegotiation of the debt had been accomplished with the banks, this did not mean that the foreign debt problem is

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over. She reiterated that now is the time to plan all the economic activity necessary to fulfill commitments. Furthermore, future governments should avoid falling into aggressive indebtedness again.

Ms. Armijos explained that the growth of the Ecuadorian economy will make it possible to service the debt; from 1.7 percent of GDP, which was the growth of the economy in 1993, growth this year will reach 3.7 percent, and in 1995 will exceed four percent.

Economic growth is solidly based because this government devotes more funds to public investment. This year, for example, the amount allocated represents 7.5 percent of GDP. [passage omitted]

Foreign Companies Invest in Mining Sector

95SM0008C Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Sep 94 pp A1, B1

[FBIS Translated Text] The reforms of the Mining Law, which were enacted in May 1991, have enabled 14 mining companies of world importance to establish themselves in Ecuador.

They are interested in finding and extracting gold, silver, and copper. They are conducting their activities over an area of 250,000 hectares.

One of the foreign companies interested in mining gold is the Canadian firm TVX Gold Inc., which joined with the Army Industries Directorate (DINE) to explore the site at Pachicutza in the Condor Mountain range.

The areas of greatest mining potential are located in Zamora Chinchipe and El Oro.

Exploitation of the deposits by manual means is still predominant in Ecuador, as in the mining complexes of Portovelo and Nambija.

The Ecuadorian mining sector, which has a history all its own, is changing. Thanks to the latest reforms of the law, fresh capital is arriving from abroad for prospecting and mining.

The areas of greatest mining potential in Ecuador are located in the Provinces of Zamora Chinchipe and El Oro. This is where the foreign companies interested in extracting gold, copper, and silver are channeling their efforts.

"Investing in mine prospecting is risky, even more so than in the petroleum industry, because there is never complete certainty that you will find what you are looking for," says the president of the Chamber of Mining, Santiago Cordovez.

"In order to conduct mine prospecting on a grand scale, the investment of large sums of capital is required, that only large foreign enterprises possess, and which luckily are coming into the country," he added.

Fourteen foreign companies of world importance have already established themselves in Ecuador and have invested a total of $20 million in exploiting 250,000 hectares. They are all trying to increase their reserves.

The Canadian firm TVX Gold Inc., for example, in association with the Army Industries Directorate (DINE), has invested some $2 million (of a total of 3 million) in the exploration of the Pachicutza site, located in the Condor Mountain range, 60 kilometers from the city of Loja.

"If a major deposit is found there, our country's vast mining potential will be reaffirmed," says the president of the Chamber of Mining.

Preliminary studies indicate that, using a 10-year projection, Ecuador's gold production could reach $600 million annually.

In general, exploitation of the deposits by manual methods still predominates in Ecuador, as in the mine complexes of Portovelo and Nambija.

"But it is time now for the work to be conducted using technical means, because otherwise 50 percent of the production of gold and other metals will continue to be lost in the extracting process," say private operators in the industry.

Other industry organizations, such as the Mining and Metallurgical Corporation for Geological Development and Research (CODIGEM), try to avoid this waste, teaching the miners new extracting techniques that are used in more developed countries.

With the arrival of new foreign capital, exploratory perforations currently are being carried out in all of the country's mining districts. The aim is to determine the size of the deposits, most of which contain more than one metal.

Mixtures of lead, copper, silver, tin, molybdenum, and tungsten can be found in the extractions.

There are three important mining districts in Ecuador: Portovelo-Zaruma, Ponce Enriquez, and Nambija.

According to experts consulted by this newspaper, the reformed Mining Law (May 1991) is up to date and provides guarantees to investors and miners.

"One of the principal innovations with respect to the previous law is to declare the mine concession to be a real property right, transferrable, transmissible and susceptible to mortgage," comments Santiago Cordovez.

However, mine operators point to a weakness "that distances us from farmers": mining concession rights compared with surface rights.

"Our position is clear," says the president of the Chamber of Mining, "to conduct prospecting, exploration, and exploitation of metallic and nonmetallic minerals in areas under cultivation, the permission of the landowner is required."

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[Box, p B1]

DINE and Its First Mining "Joint Venture"

The Army Industries Directorate (DINE), the industrial arm of the Ecuadorian Army, sheltered by the mining law, joined with the Canadian firm TVX Gold Inc. in November 1993 to exploit the mining site known as "Pachicutza" in the Condor Mountain range.

According to the agreement:

- The DINE transferred title to the mining property to Condor Mines (TVX' subsidiary in Ecuador), of which it owns 10 percent of the shares, which permits it to obtain a royalty of three percent of the total production of refined metal, if a deposit is discovered and is exploited.
- In addition, DINE will receive 2.5 percent of declared dividends.
- The risk of the mining exploration—$3 million dollars in three years—is assumed by the Canadian partner.
- The necessary capital for an eventual refinery will also be supplied by TVX Gold Inc.

The 14 Major Companies Now in Ecuador

Name	Country
AG Ameno Mines	Canada
Cogema	France
EMC	Canada
Gold Fields	South Africa
Newmont	United States
Oding Mining	Australia
Rio Amarillo	Canada
Echo Bay	Canada
Gancor	South Africa
RTZ	England
TVX Gold	Canada
Teck	Canada
Connors Drilling	Canada
Boyles Brothers	United States

Paraguay

Wasmosy Interviewed on Paraguayan Issues in Madrid

'Democracy is Irreversible'

BR2710145694 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p 10

[Interview with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy by Miguel Angel Villena in Madrid—date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Villena] You are Paraguay's first civilian president since 1954. Is there no longer any saber rattling? Is the Army subordinate to the civil power?

[Wasmosy] Saber rattling is something that belongs to the past. Over the past few months, the number of generals has fallen from 62 to 38, within a plan to rationalize and professionalize the Armed Forces. Colorado Party membership is no longer necessary for the military, and we are thoroughly democratizing the training of officers. I wish to emphasize that Paraguay is the only country in Latin America which has punished and sentenced the violators of human rights during the period of the dictatorship. Democracy is irreversible.

[Villena] Hundreds of thousands of Paraguayans were forced into exile during General Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship for either economic or political reasons. How do you intend to stem that outflow, so that they will return to the country?

[Wasmosy] We have set up an expatriation commission in order to promote the exiles' return. Several thousand have already returned, and the doors are open for everybody, except for those who have unsettled problems with the law. I am referring to criminal matters, because there are no longer any political prisoners left in Paraguay's prisons.

[Villena] The Colorado Party has maintained an iron social control which included, for instance, the compulsory membership of officials. Have you ended those practices, which limited political pluralism?

[Wasmosy] Those rules now belong to the past, and we now have ambassadors or officials belonging to all the political parties. My government is also making a special effort in educational reform with the setting up of a council in which intellectuals and professionals of all political persuasions take part.

[Villena] During your visit to Madrid, you have called on Spanish businessmen to take part in mixed capital companies with Paraguay. Have you achieved good results?

[Wasmosy] Thousands of enterprises of Spanish origin are now taking part in mixed companies, and some of them are also interested in the process of privatization which we have begun and which includes companies such as Paraguayan Airlines. Spain should be a catalyst in relations between the European Union and the countries of the Common Market of the South (a common market comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay which will begin to operate from 1 January 1995). In my country, foreign capital can find the cheapest energy in the world, and we have fertile land and good human capital, open to technological innovations.

[Villena] Following long years of military dictatorships and political instability, it seems that Latin America's greatest challenge now is the struggle against underdevelopment.

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[Wasmosy] It is true that most Latin American countries have completed processes of transition to democracy which represent a widespread and irreversible phenomenon. Paraguay's current goal is the struggle against poverty, so that there will be social peace, because social peace requires prosperity, and hence foreign investments.

Army Backs Democracy

BR2710145894 Madrid ABC in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p 42

[Interview with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy by Carmen Mu'oz in Madrid on 26 October: "The Army is Backing The Democratic Process Unconditionally"]

[FBIS Translated excerpt] Madrid—[passage omitted] [Mu'oz] Are there fears that the Army may attempt to seize power again?

[Wasmosy] Not at all. The Army has been rationalized and professionalized, and it is backing democratization unconditionally.

[Mu'oz] One challenge faced by your government lies in adapting the Armed Forces to the new situation in the country. Are the recent changes in the Army's leadership—which have affected 16 generals and which, according to some sources, strengthen the power of the Army's commander, Divisional General Lino Cesar Oviedo—moving in that direction?

[Wasmosy] This is a very biased opinion, which I do not share. I am the one who decides on changes in the Armed Forces. This is the best proof of the fact that the civilian president is the Army's commander-in-chief. These are normal changes because formerly the generals stagnated and formed a caste and did not allow colonels to be promoted. Next year a standard, gradual promotion procedure will become fully applicable. Clearly, the aim of all this is to adapt the Armed Forces to the new situation.

[Mu'oz] Some Paraguayan politians and and journalists are convinced that, in actual fact, the military—and General Oviedo in particular—is still ruling the country.

[Wasmosy] He is just like any other commander. He is the Army's commander. This is just propaganda by some people who are afraid that the Army might move against the lawful government. But this is false. The best proof of this is that I sent 16 generals into retirement.

[Mu'oz] Is it true that Lino Cesar Oviedo may stand in the 1996 general elections and become your successor?

[Wasmosy] All divisional generals, after holding their post for five years, go into retirement unless otherwise decided by the commander in chief, namely me. They can then do as they please, as provided for in the Constitution. He may become my successor, but you must ask him if that is actually his intention.

[Mu'oz] Two weeks ago, the assassination of General Ramon Rosa Rodriguez, director of the National Anti-Drug Secretariat, brought to light the existence, in your country, of a drug-smuggling network operating between Colombia and the United States, using Paraguay as a bridge, and in which high-ranking military personnel may be involved, including General Andres Rodriguez.

[Wasmosy] This is untrue. The fact is that the North American government, our embassy over there, and Law 1340 enable covert operations to be carried out, and that is what was done. But it is untrue that military personnel are implicated. Rosa Rodriguez was a man I trusted, an honest and serious person, formerly a brigade general. On the contrary, he had been marked by the drug-smugglers.

[Mu'oz] The National Republican Association—the Colorado party's official name—will soon be holding its conference. Do you feel all the factions are supporting you?

[Wasmosy] Our party is essentially a nationalist and democratic party, and therefore it is only natural that not everybody thinks alike and that factions exist within it. But I am backed by a majority in the party.

Peru

'Terrorists' Released; Journalist Detained

95WR0013Z Lima Resumen Semanal Press Review in Spanish 14 Oct 94 p 1

[From DESCO Database; received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

Sentences Annulled

A military court has annulled five sentences of life imprisonment imposed upon alleged terrorists, after learning of improprieties in the procedures followed during the investigation and court trial of the cases. The respective files were sent back for reinvestigation. First, the sentences imposed upon Jorge Romero Moreno and Mauro Sicla Supa were annulled. They had been charged with membership in a group committed to destruction, and were captured after attacking installations in the Huayna Capac zone park in San Juan de Miraflores a year ago. A military court also annulled the sentences imposed on Pedro Enrique Maldonado Santiago and Ana Maria Maldonado Huaynate for the crime of treason against the fatherland. The court authorities ordered them both remanded to the courts for trial on ch rges of terrorism. The last sentence annulled was that imposed on Santo Dorito Rodriguez Avelino, a member of the SL (Shining Path) who murdered several peasants in Cajabamba who refused to join the ranks of the subversives. (EXPRESO 6 Oct 94)

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Charges 'Fabricated'

Guillermo Flores Jorge, 24, nicknamed "Espartaco" (Spartacus), a rural guard patrol leader in Ayacucho, led numerous battles against the SL in Ayacucho. He has served three years and six months in prison after being convicted of terrorist actions. To crown his misfortunes, his file (No. 334-92, recorded as document No. 226), which was submitted to the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic for an opinion two years ago, is said to have been misplaced, thus depriving him of any hope of defending himself. The file on "Spartacus" is nowhere to be found. According to the defense, the charges against the young patrol member were fabricated by members of the now defunct "Association of Democratic Lawyers," a pro-SL organization. Between 1988 and 1991, "Spartacus" did admirable work as the organizer of peasant self-defense committees in the province of Huamanga and the Ene River valley. He fought in this region under the command of the rural guard patrol leader known as "Commander Huayhuaco" against the "Sello de Oro" (Golden Seal) column of the SL organization, which was finally forced out of the rural area. (EXPRESO 6 Oct 94)

Lack of Evidence

The chamber of "faceless justices" in the Ancash Higher Court of Justice has ordered the immediate release of 21 citizens, most of them leaders or members of the United Left, due to the lack of any evidence that would justify their convictions. They were charged with the crimes of terrorism and treason against the fatherland and were serving sentences in various prisons in the country. The special court issued an extraordinary ruling demanding the return of those put on trial to the city of Huaraz, where they will be subject to final judgment that will return their status as "free citizens" to them. They are still being held in the Miguel Castro Castro (Canto Grande) and Santa Monica (Chorrillos) Prisons in Lima, and in El Milagro (Trujillo) and Victor Perez Liendo Prisons in the city of Huaraz. (LA REPUBLICA 7 Oct 94)

Plea for Journalist

The International Committee for the Protection of Journalists and the Pen Center USA (International Writers' and Journalists' Association) have asked President Fujimori to review the case of the Peruvian journalist Jesus Castiglione Mendoza, who is facing a possible sentence of 20 years in prison for his alleged collaboration with the terrorist movement. (LA REPUBLICA 7 Oct 94)

'Repentants'

A total of 647 terrorists sought relief under the Repentance Law in the period between the time of the president's Fatherland Fiestas announcement and this week, Daniel Espichan, a member of the commission appointed to evaluate repentant terrorists, has revealed. This figure is regarded as high (an average of nine to 10 subversives per day for the past 70 days), and it is expected that a substantial additional number of members of seditious groups will have recourse to the benefits of this law, which will cease to be effective this coming 1 November. The current number of "repentants" nationwide is 4,747. As of 28 July last, when President Fujimori announced the final deadline, the total was 4,100. The majority of the members of the subversive forces who have surrendered—about 3,740—came from the Huallaga Front. According to Espichan, a prosecutor, the state has sent six of the "repentants" and their families abroad. For those remaining in the country, it has been necessary to provide about 100 individuals with new identities, and to arrange new domiciles (transfers from one region to another) for about 30. Also, some others have been given sums of money with which to establish a source of income. Espichan charged that the Supreme Court has become a bottleneck. As of this date, there are some 250 files on "repentants" awaiting Sentencing. The 22 "repentants" currently being held in Lima Palace of Justice jail have cooperated by providing the DINCOTE [Counterterrorism Directorate] with information, but they have been kept incarcerated there for more than a year without resolution of their legal status. Further evidence is provided by the 120 appeals for annulment (terrorism cases) sent to the Supreme Court. Many of these files contain acquittal judgments that cannot be executed because the annulments have not been ordered. (EXPRESO 9 Oct 94)

Uruguay

Candidate Sanguinetti Appeals to Undecided Voters

PY2810174894 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 20 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Julio Maria Sanguinetti, the Batlleist Forum [Colorado Party faction] - PGP [Party of the Government by the People] coalition presidential candidate, has said: "We hear about 'undecided voters' everyday as if they were members of a new political party. The current round of surveys, among other factors, has placed them in a special category, even though they are citizens with the most diverse positions."

"Naturally, many citizens are still pondering about how to vote. This is good. Even if they have a preference, they want to think carefully before deciding."

Sanguinetti emphasized: "We call on these citizens," adding: "We wish to tell them that our political proposal does not have the strongest propaganda or the greatest television coverage. We simply ask them to examine us and judge us calmly."

Sanguinetti said: "First, we are a group with experience, who worked in the government under very difficult circumstances. We succeeded in leading the country through a transition that was much more traumatic than in neighboring countries, in military as well as economic

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terms. Experience is a very important factor when handling the state. We have many new people, but they will work with those with experience."

"Second, we have worked out an understanding with the largest groups with Batllеist roots. It is the case of List 99, which was created as a Colorado Party faction. It voted twice on our platform. Then it joined the Broad Front. Later it had the courage to leave that coalition due to its opposition and arguments with Marxist ideologists and, finally, it competed independently in the most recent elections. We look after them because they are honest people, beginning with Hugo Batalla. We look after them because we believe it is time to forget our differences and seek agreements to work together for a better future. In a country that is too used to looking to the past, we took a step forward, cleanly and openly, around a program. The most interesting point is that the move was welcomed by other Batllеist groups such as Crusade 94 of Senator Pablo Millor and List 27 of Victor Vaillant, and others. In a few words, it is what people have been asking us to do: Reunite the Batllеist groups."

"Third, and this is very important, we have a well-devised program. We offer a vision of the country based on investments in people and the economy, seeking to encourage production and reduce excessive state control. Today our economy is limited to fiscal adjustments and balanced accounts when we have an enormous and accumulating deficit in production and trade accounts."

"Fourth, our ticket has international prestige. If we do not want to mention prestige, we can say it is internationally known. We are honored to be considered friends of main Argentine, Brazilian, and other leaders such as President Carlos Menem, former President Raul Alfonsin, and Brazilian President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso. We must work with them to establish the Mercosur [Common Market of the South], which is no longer a diplomatic issue because our future, our jobs, our main opportunities are at stake. Negotiating with unknown officials is different from doing it with people with whom you have been working for years. We have good friends among our counterparts."

"Fifth, we have a very good team of advisers capable of guiding and eventually assuming responsibilities. The names of many of them, or the majority of them, are well known to you. We can mention German Rama or Lichtenstein in education. Both are experts, one was a university rector during the transition, the other is the best researcher in the area. In economy, the opinions of people like Serbino, Davrieux, Slinger, Pascale, Iglesias [not further identified] are very important in the minds of many citizens. In the labor area we have Hugo Fernandez Faingold and Luis Brezzo, both former labor ministers, who are well-known experts here and abroad because they are being continuously contracted and recognized in that area. We could continue giving you names, but we prefer not to because when you are talking about friends it is better not to exclude anyone. They are a sample of the people who have worked in our program. It is something to ponder on."

Finally, and addressing those who are still in doubt, Sanguinetti said: "We simply ask you to consider who can best defend Uruguayan jobs, who can best open markets, who are more experienced in handling the state, who are more concerned about social matters, who can reform the state without creating bitterness—seeking to make it more efficient so that the institutions, the grand state organizations can continue to protect the weaker groups of society?"

The Colorado Party leader said: "We do not shout or insult. We represent a lifetime of honest struggle for the country. This is why we just offer you reasons. We want to talk, because it is easier to understand people's concerns through dialogue."

Highlights of Volonte-Ramos Presidential Platform

PY2910005494 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 20 Oct 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] TO WORK, the platform of the Alberto Volonte-Alvaro Ramos presidential ticket, was introduced to Uruguayan journalists and international correspondents yesterday afternoon at the ticket's headquarters at the intersection of 18 de Julio Avenue and Andes Street. The 72-page paperback book, printed in white and blue, bears another title as a footnote: HOW TO DO IT.

The book begins with a letter from Volonte and Ramos to their fellow citizens. It is divided into 10 chapters involving Regional Integration and Foreign Policy, Population and Family, Culture and Education, Economy, State Reform, Decentralization and Territorial Distribution, Environment, Social Welfare, and Public Security and National Defense.

One hundred and seventeen experts in many specialties were engaged in the wording of the basic guidelines for political, social, and economic beliefs, key issues, and essential lines of action that the presidential ticket believes Uruguay must implement for the future, using our main asset: the Uruguayan people's culture and intelligence.

In introducing the book and its qualities, including the power of synthesis, Volonte said: "Ideas, our country, and the future are what really matter."

Bet on Intelligence

Volonte indicated: "Our government program bets especially on our people's intelligence, bearing in mind the future and new horizons as a planning element." He added that there are excellent government proposals and programs, the fruit of great efforts. But these government

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proposals and programs use as a reference certain elements that rise purely and exclusively from a combination of technical and doctrinaire work.

Volonte noted: "We did it the other way around here." He said: "We first asked ourselves: Where do you we want to go? What really matters: resolving our country's current problems, or patching up our country's old problems? Or do we definitely look ahead and toward the ordering sequences of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and prepare ourselves to become a "country of a region," while more than ever keeping our national identity?

In another passage he asked himself in whose service the economy was, then doing a roll call of the elements that make up society. Rejecting individualities, he answered that it is at the service of the future. "It is an economic, humanistic thought process, thinking what the country's future should be. It is thus at the service of the future and of the country. Nothing more and nothing less. And the future becomes integrated with the welfare of fellow countrymen in every aspect of their daily lives. Everything is to be done with an objective, a unitarian element, that will prevent us from dispersing, that will keep us strongly united."

The Presence of the Party

He stated that he did not plan to include every idea of the program, nor make a detailed explanation of topics. "Moreover," he said, "I believe that everything is included, because here we have the essence and the essence contains everything. It is not only the essence of a thought that heavily identifies what Alvaro Ramos and I desire, but it also identifies the deep roots of the National Party."

He also stated that the marvelous group of experts who had drafted the program had worked with formidable energy, and had hit the nail on the head in the way in which the program is introduced to the world as the first point, "but with roots in the party to which we belong, the National Party, and with the references that have allowed Alvaro and myself to become intimately united. The only thing we did was to observe each other profoundly, with no subtlety, and without adding or subtracting anything. Even though this is not included, it is also a part of a government plan."

He added that he approved of the policy of alliances in which the presidential candidate represents one thing and the candidate for vice president represents another. "But what I like most is what happened to Alvaro and me. We understand one another, not because he represents one thing and I another. We understand each other because we see eye to eye."

He stressed that the program is based on a vision of the country, but that it does not intend to model it, something that is done quite frequently. Volonte emphasized that "it is an open program in which every kind of social agreement can be made without excluding any sector. It is a program that is betting on peace, and we understand that it is the most basic element with which a government can be consolidated with great national understanding."

Understanding Without Exceptions

He established the need to seek reconciliation among all sectors of society. He also stated that the program is a useful instrument for coming to an understanding with all the political parties, without exception. "I believe that with this program there is no party or sector that cannot come to an agreement if we are really thinking about the country and the future. Because it contains the flexibility and humility that indicates that we do not pretend to own the truth, that we will always be open without losing sight of the fact that the region is the ordering sequence and that the future is what is important."

He stated that a reference point is thus obtained for all Uruguayans. "It is achieved," he finalized, "when one is willing to negotiate everything except the destiny of the country itself."

Interrupted repeatedly by strong applause, Volonte expressed special recognition of the media, which he termed the country's pride due to its role of transferring the ideas of the candidates to public opinion, thus providing a vehicle for those who cannot pay the high price of a paid advertisement. "It is an honor to our democratic and republican tradition," he said, "and allows us to make contact with the most far away places, and has given us many opportunities to communicate."

Polls Indicate 'Neck and Neck' Race in Presidential Elections

PY2810235794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1711 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 27 Oct (EFE)—Exactly one month away from the general elections, some 15 percent of the Uruguayan electorate have not decided for whom they will vote, and the polls indicate that the traditional political parties, the National and Colorado Parties, are running practically neck and neck.

Public opinion polls released by three enterprises on 26 and 27 October agree that between 13 and 15 percent of the just over 2.3 million Uruguayans with the right to vote have still not decided for whom they will vote, or prefer not to disclose their preference.

According to Uruguayan electoral law the political parties can present several candidates for the presidency, and the president will be the candidate with the most votes within the winning party.

The traditional parties, the National Party—currently in charge of the government—and the Colorado Party—which has traditionally governed, and is now the main opposition party—have presented three candidates each.

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The National Party has presented Alberto Volonte, Juan Andres Ramirez, and Carlos Julio Pereyra; and the Colorado Party has presented former President Julio Maria Sanguinetti (1985-1990), Jorge Battle, and Jorge Pacheco Areco [president 1967-1972].

Progressive Encounter, which has the leftist coalition Broad Front as its main force, is putting up Socialist Tabare Vazquez, former Montevideo mayor, as its presidential candidate.

The New Sector Coalition, a new group that defines itself as socialist-democratic-humanist, is promoting the candidacy of Deputy Rafael Michellini.

According to the Equipos Contables poll carried out 14-24 October at the request of the newspaper EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO, the National Party has the support of 30 percent of the voters who have already made their decision, while the Colorado Party has 29 percent.

Progressive Encounter has 24 percent of the electorate and the New Sector Coalition 4 percent, while 13 percent of the voters consulted indicated that they did not know or preferred not to disclose their preference.

In another poll taken between 14 and 22 October at the request of the newspaper EL PAIS, the Consultora Datos Enterprise reports that support for the National Party grew from 24 to 28 percent in October, while the Colorado Party's support fell from 32 to 27 percent.

According to the poll Progressive Encounter is maintaining its 23 percent, while the New Sector Coalition grew from 3 to 5 percent of voters who have already decided for whom to vote.

A poll carried out by the Vox-Opinion y Mercado Enterprise, published by the weekly BUSQUEDA, differs with the other pollsters in that it puts the Colorado Party in first place with 27.7 percent, followed by the National Party with 27.1 percent.

The two traditional parties are followed by Progressive Encounter with 21.2 percent and New Sector Coalition with 4.5 percent, which doubled the support it had in September.

Regarding positions within the parties themselves, and according to the different polls, Volonte is ahead in the National Party with between 44 and 51 percent of the voters of his party, while Sanguinetti is ahead in the Colorado Party with between 72 and 73 percent of voter support.

In Montevideo, where half of the 3 million Uruguayans live, the leftist Progressive Encounter has consolidated as the top political force with between 32 and 36 percent of the vote, according to the various polls; while the Colorado Party has between 19 and 22 percent and the National Party between 15 and 22 percent.

The candidates of all parties are currently traveling throughout the country with messages directed mainly at the undecided, with the certainty that it is this group that will determine the 27 November elections.

Venezuela

Caldera: Country Open to Foreign Investment

PA2910000394 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 23 Oct 94 p E-2

[Report by Armando Gruber]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ciudad Guayana—There is confidence in our country, and those ill-intentioned people who claim Venezuela is closed to new investments or opposes sustained progress in high-tech industries are wrong, according to President Caldera. The president added that those who know the true meaning of our national effort continue to harbor hope.

President Rafael Caldera made these statements within the framework of the inauguration of Japanese multinational Kobe Steel's new ball-bearing plant, which is being set up in association with CVG's [Venezuelan Guayana Corporation] Minorca company in the Punta Cuchillos industrial zone at a cost of $360 million.

In a simple ceremony, several national and international guests were comfortably seated under awnings, protected from the harsh Guayana sun. In a brief speech from the podium, Caldera—accompanied by CVG President Alfredo Gruber Huncal, Guayana State Governor Andres Velasquez, and Labor Minister Juan Nepomuceno Garrido—said Venezuelans are not afraid of the mysteries of technology when referring to the production mechanisms at the ball-bearing plant, which uses a combination of Kobe Steel-Allis Chalmers technical processes.

Opening to Investment

The president stressed he is willing to open up the country to domestic and foreign investments that contribute to the national wealth. Nevertheless, he said economic investments are not justified when they do not produce welfare or job opportunities.

"I become terrified when macroeconomic indicators in some sister nations and neighboring countries show an increase in wealth and at the same time an increase in poverty," Caldera explained.

The president asserted that this paradox cannot be the solution to the destiny of the peoples, nor can it be the message the Latin American community receives at the outset of the 21st century.

Caldera acknowledged we have to undertake a difficult and complicated path to achieve the kind of economic and social progress in which workers have access to

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technology requiring specialized labor and the installation of new plants to provide jobs for many workers.

"The country is progressing with confidence amid the traumas," the president noted.

Development Continues in Guayana

Meanwhile, CVG President Alfredo Gruber Huncal highlighted the importance of the work of metallurgic engineering, stressing the importance of steel alloys. This is contributing to a greater expansion of the industry.

In his speech, Gruber Huncal discussed the issue of gold exploitation in the Guayana region and its potential to pay the foreign debt, and he discussed the development of this industry in the southern part of Bolivar State.

Attorney General's Office Begins Expropriating Bank Assets

PA2810164594 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Report by Johnny Ficarella from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Attorney General's Office has begun the expropriation of the assets owned by debtors of intervened banks.

The first expropriated asset was the plot of land where the new Banco Latino building on Andres Bello Avenue is being erected. The builder owed Banco Latino almost 5 billion bolivares. Another one of the properties expropriated is the (Somosagua) Hacienda located on Falcon State with a debt of 890 billion bolivares, as well as the (Yaracal) industrial slaughterhouse in Falcon State, which owes Bancor Financial Company more than 300 billion bolivares. Finally, 3,400 shares owed by the Medano Caribe Civil Corporation, which has a debt of 871 billion bolivares with Construccion Bank, were expropriated. Attorney General Jesus Petit Da Costa also said a judicial bid was held to sell the Melia Caracas Hotel.

[Begin Petit recording, in progress] ...the Melia Caracas Hotel for an additional 7 billion bolivares. It would have been a bad business because what we are trying to do is recover the money, not to lose more money. The solution we have sought is to get intervened banks with mortgages to collect—or that are being collected, such as those at the Consolidado Bank, which is currently in operation—to go ahead and collect the mortgage. If the debt owed by intervened banks adds up to 7 billion bolivares and we make an offer on the day of the official bid for 7 billion bolivares, which is half of the appraisal. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

That was Attorney General Petit Da Costa, who talked about the expropriation of 80 to 100 assets in a month.

Minister Says Foreign Debt Payments Will Continue

PA2910200894 Caracas REPORTE DE LA ECONOMIA in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez stated in an official communique the Republic has not and will not stop meeting its foreign debt obligations, both its refinanced and unrefinanced debt.

As for reports of a possible moratorium, Sosa has stated the nation has been making its debt payments in a timely manner. He has said "inaction by the ministry to reduce the fiscal deficit is in no way adversely affecting the timely payment of the debt."

The payment of the unrefinanced debt will also be made on time.

There was a disagreement between the finance minister and Werner Corrales, Office of Coordination and Planning minister, who has said the country has been falling behind in the payment of its debt obligations even though there has been an effort to be up-to-date.

Sosa has said, however, arrears were detected on 2 February, when the current government took office, in the payment of debts to suppliers, for which alternatives are being studied for the quick payment of these obligations.

Arrears were also detected in the payment of debts with certain decentralized institutions, particularly in the aluminum sector and CADAFE [Electrical Administration and Development Corporation], due to the aluminum price situation in international markets and the deficit being faced by the power company.

Aluminum sector companies, particularly Alcasa, "are dating the payment of their debt obligations by direct agreements with their creditors." the company Fesilven will honor its debt obligations and pay off its arrears before the closing of the current fiscal year, Sosa has said.

Official Debt Totals

The country's total debt at the end of 1994 is estimated at $26.712 billion, a net reduction of $96 million regarding the end of fiscal year 1993.

Concerning these amounts, the finance minister has said the government is willing to honor all its foreign debt obligations in a timely manner and will continue with the process to normalize the payment schedule of the arrears that existed prior to 2 February.

The communique stated in its final paragraph that the handling of the foreign debt is the responsibility of the Finance Ministry and, therefore, only the information authorized by its minister will be official.

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Caldera: Controlling 'Unrestrained Inflation' Main Task

PA2910170094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Rafael Caldera said our task now is to control inflation, given that the October index will be about 4.5 percent. President Caldera made this statement in Monagas State during a ceremony to install the Monagas 21st Century Forum. He said price and foreign currency controls are intended to prevent capital drain. The task now is to curb the country's unrestrained inflation, because foreign investments cannot approach Venezuela under those conditions. The president said investors today know they enjoy freedoms and a currency that seeks a stability that is essential in making safe plans.

Incidentally, the Central Bank of Venezuela president has proposed a dual exchange during another forum organized by the Miraflores Unity of Analysis and Strategy, which was held yesterday at Miraflores Palace. Central Bank President Antonio Casas Gonzalez agrees with the implementation of a dual exchange. He said during his statement the zero coupon bonds cannot continue as the instruments to drain excess liquidity, and he endorsed the mechanism of special bonds in dollars.

Referring to the foreign currency exchange rate, he admitted it must be adjusted at a given time, although he recognized the bolivar is progressively being revaluated. Despite this trend, it all will depend on the ability to control inflation. The Central Bank president said it is imperative to define the increase in internal fuel market prices in order to have access to IMF financing, which is becoming increasingly necessary.

The zero coupon bonds have caused a controversy not only because the Central Bank president has issued a statement in this regard but because the Cordiplan [Office of Coordination and Planning] deputy minister has also stated his doubts about them. He says they have practically become a curse and cannot continue to define changes or determine economic changes in an effort to control liquidity. Consequently, Cordiplan Minister Werner Corrales has proposed that bonds be replaced through a consultation. How will this measure be implemented? What will it entail? What is this measure? They will certainly explain it in the near future.

Government Says New Devaluation Will Not Occur

PA2910170194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] National government spokesmen have said a new devaluation of the bolivar will not occur in the next few months. Luis Raul Matos Azocar, minister of economic support, and Domingo Maza Zavala, director of the Central Bank of Venezuela [BCV], stated this emphatically. The government and bank representatives have said BCV President Antonio Casas Gonzalez did not imply a devaluation would occur. In any case, Luis Raul Matos Azocar has said that is not the government's idea:

[Begin Matos recording] Everyone interprets things as they want, but there is only one position [words indistinct]. I have talked with the president of the Republic. The current exchange rate will remain the same. [end recording]

The two officials have sought to clarify concepts and have said the BCV can only control monetary policies while the government handles the foreign exchange rate:

[Begin Matos recording] I can assure you that, as far I am concerned—obviously, I cannot speak for others—the foreign exchange rate will not be modified this year. If a devaluation does occur [words indistinct] year's end I believe [words indistinct].

Domingo Maza Zavala has said there is no reason why inflation should reach the 65 percent mark this year. Meanwhile, he has said inflation will only be caused by speculation if it rises.

Deputy Finance Minister Remarks on 1995 Budget

PA3110120794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Oct 94

[Report by Cecilia Pachano from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 1995 budget will definitely be for 2.625 trillion bolivares, according to the draft budget ordered by Congress and the executive branch.

The commission members in charge of drafting the 1995 budget ended their work at Miraflores Palace Sunday. According to Deputy Finance Minister Luis Javier Grisanti, the 1995 budget indicates a 30 percent increase over the 1994 budget, and 45 percent of the nation's revenues will come from non-oil sources for the first time in history, indicating there has been a 35 percent reduction of our dependence on oil revenues in only four years.

According to Grisanti, priorities of the 1995 budget will be security and social needs.

[Begin Grisanti recording] Security is our priority. We have foreseen we are going to increase the budget for security and defense by 40 billion bolivares in 1995; that includes such areas as the budget increase for the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], the Metropolitan Police, the DIEX [Directorate of Identification and Alien Affairs], the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], and improvement of the nation's prisons. The 40

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billion bolivares also include an additional amount to cover operation expenses at the Defense Ministry. Our second priorities are the social needs, particularly salary demands for 1995. [end recording]

Luis Javier Grisanti said these estimates are based on a rational calculation of revenues. He said a great effort has been done to achieve greater discipline in the country's expenditures, adding that the government believes the revision and rationalization process of the expenditures has to be continuous in five fundamental areas: the merging and integration of organizations; the creation of a commission in charge of supervising credits granted by multilateral organizations; the revision of subsidies; the decentralization of health services; and the maintenance and conclusion of public works before new ones are initiated.

Defense Minister Orders Investigation of Intelligence Directorate

PA2910045294 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 27 Oct 94 p D-1

[Article by Javier Ignacio Mayorca]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Jose Rafael Montero Revette has ordered an intervention at the installations of the Directorate of Intelligence of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where a counterintelligence "laboratory" to tarnish the reputations of certain rising officers was presumably operating until this week.

This measure comes at a time when the president of the Republic is about to appoint a new defense minister and the high military command, which is scheduled for December.

Military intelligence sources told EL NACIONAL that the Intelligence Directorate has been under investigation since May. They used various procedures to spread their gossip.

For instance, notes were left in the bathrooms of the ministry and reports were faxed to certain renowned columnists to sow doubts about the honor of officers in the National Guard and the National Armed Forces [FAN].

The disclosure of a pamphlet titled "Religion or Military Extremism" dealt the heaviest blow. This leaflet analyzed the birth and evolution of a military movement "called the Mormons, which has certain religious connotations."

The founding father of that group was reportedly the minister of defense during the Lusinchi administration. That defense minister had to face the problem of refurbishing the Mirage planes. The most active members of the group included six generals, five colonels, and a lieutenant colonel.

Their objectives were "to maintain military power by including officers linked to them in the chain of command, especially in the areas responsible for managing the FAN budget," as well as to gain a certain hegemony in the Court Martial [la Corte Marcial].

The document names certain Army generals who are expecting imminent promotions and links them to acts of corruption through travel agencies and through orders from the armed forces. It also refers to their "licentious lifestyles."

Huizi Executes

Vice Admiral Jose Rafael Huizi Clavier, FAN inspector general, was reportedly ordered by Minister Montero Revette to investigate the Directorate of Intelligence of the General Staff.

After 3:30 on Monday afternoon, Huizi went to the fourth floor of the ministry—where this directorate is located—accompanied by a team of officers.

Rear Admiral Mario David Yanez, the incumbent head of the directorate, had to surrender the office keys to the investigators. However, the true "mastermind" of this laboratory was a lieutenant colonel named Diaz, who often identified himself by the letters "JD." Diaz used the services of a political analyst, an expert in military matters known as Leyda, to draft his reports.

An Intelligence Council

EL NACIONAL has also learned that following the procedure, the General Staff appointed high-ranking military officers to form an investigative council whose [words indistinct].

The investigations of the intelligence members will focus on several Army offices where an internal espionage apparatus is presumed to be operating.

Thus far, according to intelligence sources, there is "overwhelming" proof of the operation of this laboratory. Both the rear admiral and the lieutenant colonel are in the minister's custody. The maximum penalty in these cases is expulsion.

The defamatory group, described as "gorilla," reportedly maintained relations with generals who are facing military corruption charges.

Denies Arrests at Intelligence Directorate

PA2910045394 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Oct 94 p D-1

[FBIS Translated Text] Caracas (VENPRES)—Defense Minister General Rafael Angel Montero has denied that arrests were made at the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Intelligence Directorate, but he confirmed that several officers were separated from their posts while investigations of information leaks continue.

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The defense minister made these comments as he was leaving a ceremony to unveil a painting of Great Ayacucho Marshall Antonio Jose de Sucre on the fifth floor of the Defense Ministry. Vice Admiral Jose Huizi Clavier, National Armed Forces inspector general and president of the commission in charge of organizing the ceremonies to mark the bicentennial of the eastern founding father, members of the high command, and intellectuals attended the unveiling ceremony.

Montero explained that a simple investigation of information leaks is being conducted at the Joint Chiefs of Staff Intelligence Directorate. No laboratory has been detected. He added, however, there is no proof there were information leaks.

Gen. Montero stressed there were no arrests and said that the military agents who work at the Intelligence Directorate are still going to the Defense Ministry.

The defense minister also said this is not the first time such an investigation has been conducted as there have been similar investigations in other units and agencies of the Armed Forces.

He maintained that the Court Martial, the Military Justice Court, or the DIM [Military Intelligence Directorate] are not involved in this problem, "because, as I said earlier, this is a simple, routine investigation that has been conducted before."

Caldera Speaks at Swearing-in of MAS Directorate Members

PA3110043094 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 30 Oct 94

[Speech by President Rafael Caldera at the installation and swearing in of new National Directorate members of the Movement Toward Socialism at the Caracas Central Park; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Venezuela's problems are so serious that not a single Venezuelan is unaware of them, but my belief that the Venezuelan people are resolved and willing to overcome these problems encourages me in this struggle and allows me to see clear paths on the horizon and effective possibilities that will set the country on the course of economic and social development it needs, before the start of the 21st century and a new millennium for Christianity.

Our struggle is fierce and difficult. To deal with it, we have requested the solidarity of all Venezuelans, of all Venezuelans from all sectors. We have not established sales taxes to hinder anyone's path toward the collective effort we must make to overcome the crisis. We have maintained an open and broad position, and within this position—I must say it—the contributions made by MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] representatives in the government have been of exceptional value.

I must acknowledge that MAS ministers in the Executive Cabinet, elected MAS state governors, MAS representatives in top positions and in various areas of responsibility within the government have all helped and are still helping to maintain this effort of solidarity, understanding, and harmony, which are essential to the achievement, through social peace, of profound changes in our organizations and profound procedural changes. This goal is the one that has made us one, brought us together, and united us throughout the electoral campaign. The understanding that led to the 5 December victory was not a mere accident, nor was it the result of a mathematical calculation of election results; it was not the result of some sort of arrangement to grant privileges or to whet appetites. It was the result of a process of rapprochement, agreement, and joint affirmation in response to the country's problems, which led us in a normal manner to that coalition which, more than a coalition, was an effective union of spirits and resolves to give the Venezuelan people, at the height of their anguish and concern, a message of confidence, faith, and hope in Venezuela's future.

We are determined to struggle with the guidance of our own consciences, with a commitment to the country marked by unsurpassable conduct, with the conviction that the country has specific needs and is faced with special circumstances and, therefore, that it need not submit to the intractable dictates of multilateral organizations or foreign powers which, perhaps, may be well meaning and desirous of fostering wellbeing and wealth among the peoples on this earth. People are sometimes unaware, however, of the profound and worrisome realities experienced by countries such as those in Latin America, which is our duty to protect and defend.

My style of government is not dogmatic; it is not boxed in by the terms of any particular ideological concept. I want the best of all the ideologies. I am convinced freedom must be defended, and I am also convinced we must exercise our authority in the defense of freedom. The people must place the protection and defense of freedom in the hands of the government so that the government can protect them from the abuses and iniquitous exploitations to which they are often submitted in the name of freedom.

There has been no problem on this point. There is a primary interest and a resolve to struggle. That reason is why there has been harmony within the public administration and why we have obtained the consensus, support, and understanding of most of our fellow Venezuelans. The Venezuelan people know there are tremendous difficulties. The Venezuelan people are suffering the consequences of the high cost of living, due largely to a fateful economic policy based on the dictates of multilateral organizations.

I believe there are two diametrically opposed positions in Venezuela: A position taken by most Venezuelans, who want peace and hope and who are willing to help by

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joining solidary efforts to improve the country's situation; and a position taken by a minority that for several reasons, which I will not discuss now, objects to and disapproves of everything. As this minority recognizes any improvement, it finds something wrong with it. There is peace, but there is also violence; there are improvements, but there will be hassles. It is a negative position permanently determined to look for irreducible situations leading to the so-called social chaos, which we will not tolerate, because the Venezuelan people want peace and are unwilling to allow themselves to be defeated. [applause] This is why we are aware that if our responsibility is big, the encouragement the Venezuelans' trust gives us is as big as that responsibility.

The Venezuelan people are encouraged by the challenges fate brings forth. Now is a time when we feel the hearts of people who want us to make anything possible to move forward without yielding to the temptation of falling into negativism and violence, which could lead us to a tragic outcome and again to the beginning of the ordeal Venezuela had to overcome to live as a decent and modern country.

This reason is why I am compelled today, against my will, to speak about media reports by Radical Cause Party Deputy Pablo Medina and by former National Army Commander Hugo Chavez. I want to say here that I have always maintained an open and respectful attitude toward the Radical Cause Party and that I have maintained true and positive relations with many Radical Cause Party leaders. For instance, I could say that Caracas Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz has always been willing to join efforts beyond our partisan differences for the sake of the community.

I understand the Radical Cause Party may have major differences with the position I am taking. It wants Venezuela to change. So do I, but I want to change Venezuela by seeking and proposing solutions and climbing new paths. We have found that the Radical Cause Party has taken a negative position. We respect it, because it is its position and strategy, but I reject its personal accusations attributing to me actions and intentions far from me. They do not agree with my political career; they completely differ from the position of respect and openness I have always had toward all Venezuelans.

As for Mr. Chavez, I must say it seems he sometimes feels nostalgia for Yare Prison. He should not worry though; as long as he remains within legal boundaries, he can exercise all the rights to which every citizen is entitled. [applause] I do not believe he is interested in provoking actions of such a nature as to force public authorities to take those sanctions stipulated by law. I truly believe that whoever wants to cause harm must think that he who causes harm is not the one who wants to but the one who can. [applause]

We have an open, free society. The IAPA [Inter-American Press Association] has recognized perhaps for the first time the Venezuelan Government's deep respect for the media. Maybe it has dared not to admit the media's deep respect for the Venezuelan Government, but this point will not change our behavior. Our position is to fully respect the expression of thought, all the media, and all peaceful demonstrations described in the Constitution.

Although we had to suspend certain guarantees, we have intended to suspend the rights mentioned above. The government receives more attacks now than before the rights were suspended. Two things we will not permit—and I am certain the people of MAS will support me on this decision. We will not permit violence to prevail in this country. We will confront outbreaks of violence. We permit peaceful demonstrations. We respect the struggle of ideas and all criticisms, fair and unfair, against the public administration. We will not permit, however, violence to control Venezuela. It is our fundamental duty to prevent the country from falling in the fires of (?violence). [applause]

In addition, we will not allow the Armed Forces to become a center of disturbances, conflict, political disagreement, partyism, and influence peddling. Any officer desiring to become active in politics must request retirement so he can exercise his political rights like any other citizen. [applause]

These two purposes have been well defined. Apart from this point, we have much confidence in the country. The people know there are problems, but they also know we are determined to face them. The people know we are seeking ways to implement the deep change demanded by our society. The people know that we are on their side, that we have confronted the powerful ones, that we do these things with the full sense of responsibility the Venezuelan situation demands.

We are not adventurers. We will not take hasty, rash measures that may look favorable at the beginning but could harm the community in the long run. Both in and out of the country, we insist an economic policy cannot be justified if it does not include a serious and reasonable social purpose. We have entrusted a great Venezuelan, our dear Minister Pompeyo Marquez, the responsibility of coordinating the government's social programs. He knows he enjoys my support at all times, because he fights for the people's well-being and is a guarantee the government will not fall into the nefarious trap of neoliberal self-centeredness. [applause]

We are carrying out this struggle inspired by a positive purpose. Every day we feel more and more that we are carrying out with honesty this duty the people put on our shoulders. The people know that we are not in the government to steal the people's money or to allow others to steal it, that we are not here to ignore the interests and the pressing needs of the needy and less fortunate, that we are here to combat the evils threatening our nation from the most diverse angles. We do it, because our people are a great people, because the

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people's love is true. They feel they had not had a government for a long time to protect and defend them, to fight for them. [applause]

In this struggle, papers can waste kilometers of paper; television stations can waste hours and hours in broadcasts, and there can be distorting publicity in many sectors, but all this does not reach the people. A friend of mine told me a few days ago he is impressed when he reads the morning paper and watches certain television programs and then confronts the reality in the country and the government. On the one hand we are told about a desolate, terrible panorama, that we are on top of a volcano, on the verge of a social outbreak, but on the other hand we find the people do not want that. They have suffered enough and do not want to suffer more.

The military movement failed on 27 November 1992 as soon as the people were called to violence. The people got scared and stayed home, because they did not want to participate in destructive violence. The people have sided with their government, because this is a government of the people, and the people know we are struggling for them and are determined to carry out the immense task entrusted to us on the memorable date of 5 December 1993. [applause]

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